

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
)  
v. )  
)  
JOHN DOE 2010R03793 )  
)  
JEREMY HAMMOND, )  
)  
Movant )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

1-19-dm-00050-AJT

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Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
 Chief Judge  
 Southern District of New York  
 500 Pearl Street  
 New York, NY 10007

October 20, 2013

Dear Judge Preska,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen and one of Jeremy Hammond's former teachers. I am now in my twentieth year as a teacher and am proud to say in that time I have had a number of talented and intellectually gifted students. I would place Jeremy Hammond into that category. While I am familiar with many aspects of Jeremy's case and recognize he has pled guilty to a violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, I would like to tell you about the Jeremy Hammond I have known since he was a high school sophomore in my Contemporary World History Honors course.

From our first conversations, I knew that Jeremy was someone who looked beyond the facts and paid close attention to world events. You can imagine my excitement as a teacher to have someone in my class who could speak intelligently about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the effects of the Cold War, and the impact of European colonialism on the development of African political structures. Coupled with his brother Jason, we would spend many days after school talking about the current state of affairs in the world and the United States. Similarly, Jeremy's eagerness to learn was a characteristic he used as a tool to bring people together. Unquestionably, his passion for contemporary history increased the interest of his classmates in gaining a deeper understanding of the world and in seeking answers that went beyond the scope of the course. Not surprisingly, during the Middle East Peace Talks simulation, Jeremy was the head of the Palestinian delegation. Even as a sophomore, he understood many of the political intricacies of the Palestinian situation and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. In fact, it was Jeremy's group that came up with the agreed upon solution of a gradual withdrawal from the occupied territories over a ten year period to provide the opportunity for the Palestinians to create a state for themselves. His ability to see both sides of the problem and employ diplomatic negotiations and a compassionate approach served as a model for subsequent peace talks in Contemporary World History. Additionally, as Jeremy moved along in his high school career, he continued to find ways to make a positive impact on his school and his peers.

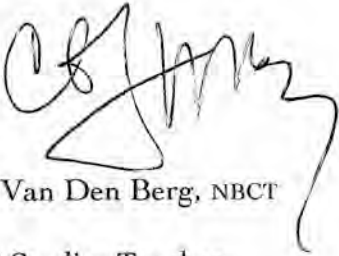
In the fall of 2001, Jeremy and his brother came to me and asked if it was possible to hold a Battle of the Bands. They came with ideas and more importantly, with access to equipment we could use for sound. I think that they mostly wanted to use the Battle of the Bands as a showcase for their band, Ice Titan, but their energy was contagious and I agreed to sponsor the event. With insight beyond their years, they rightly felt we could utilize the event to raise money for local and national charitable organizations and to hold a food drive for the local food pantry. Over \$1100 was raised and 5 boxes of food were collected in that inaugural year. Much of the money went to a local camp called TLC Camp for kids with cancer. As I mentioned, this was the "inaugural" year. We have since held eight more Battles raising over \$10,000 and donating on average, 10 boxes of food per event. I have no doubt that if Jeremy and his brother had not pursued this endeavor, there would be no Battle of the Bands today. It was their optimism about making a positive impact on their community and school that inspired me to continue this tradition of utilizing music to benefit others.

As demonstrated by his ability to inspire positivity amongst his peers and teachers, Jeremy Hammond is someone who has used his considerable gifts to create more thoughtful and

compassionate members of society. Jeremy's acts of civil disobedience only sought to expose the hypocrisy he perceived as negatively affecting the citizens of this country and the world community. He had no financial gain from his actions.

While the long-term impact of his actions on Stratfor is at best, debatable, what is unquestionable is the negative effect of a long prison sentence on Jeremy. He has already served over 15 months, including exhaustive stints in solitary confinement. Jeremy has always had a strong sense of justice and has stood up for those who are unable to stand for themselves. Therefore, as his former teacher, I am asking for justice to be served and leniency provided in the sentencing of Jeremy Hammond.

With Regards,



10/20/13

Chris Van Den Berg, NBCT

Social Studies Teacher  
Battle of the Bands Producer  
Leadership Coordinator  
Glenbard East High School



Michael R. Pitula

1 [REDACTED]  
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

October 14, 2013

Dear Judge Preska:

I am contacting you in regard to the upcoming sentencing hearing of Jeremy Hammond. As a GED and adult literacy instructor who works with many ex-offenders on Chicago's West Side, I recognize the Court's responsibility to implement the law by imposing fair and just sentences for criminal violations. As you determine the sentence for Jeremy's plea of guilty of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, I respectfully urge you to demonstrate compassion and consider the many positive contributions that this young man has made to society.

I have personally known Jeremy for about ten years through his community involvement here in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. I first came to know Mr. Hammond through his publication of a high school newspaper weighing in on the wars and invasions of the time. It was impressive to see a young person engaging in civic discourse on matters of such global import at an age when many youth are caught up in the latest passing gossip or fad. This genuine concern for the course of public life is a characteristic that I believe has motivated Mr. Hammond over the last decade.

While we were never particularly close, I would interact with Mr. Hammond fairly regularly in the years to follow. I spent a time working as a community organizer for a local environmental justice organization in the Latino neighborhoods on the Southwest Side of Chicago. I would encounter Jeremy in the course of my outreach and he was always open to learning of and supporting the efforts of the community to secure equal access to clean air and public transit to travel to work and school. Hammond showed solidarity, in spite of the fact that he was not originally from the community. He became involved in supporting various public campaigns, speaking at transit board hearings and picketing with neighbors to draw attention to the public health threats posed by violations of clean air laws and regulations on the part of nearby plants and factories. His demeanor was always one of humility and genuine interest to serve.

In this way, he also shared his wealth of computer knowledge free of charge. Rather than use his talents for personal wealth or fame, he would regularly conduct research, help set up websites or provide other technical assistance to non-profit organizations or community groups committed to social justice. It is my belief that even in the circumstances immediately before the Court, in which Jeremy has pled guilty to utilizing his computer abilities in a way that violated federal law; he was motivated not by selfish gain, but out of an ideal to benefit the public well-being.

Jeremy's public service here in Chicago has been extensive. It is not limited to the examples that I have described here. I knew him to be active with and supportive of a broad range of efforts at creating a better world. He has worked directly with neighbors and friends to help end hunger, end sexism and gender-based violence, and to stop neighborhood displacement of low income tenants and homeowners. He has been an ally to groups working for human rights and environmental justice and to build healthy and diverse communities. He engaged in these efforts while maintaining employment as a productive member of society.

I respectfully request that the hefty testimony of Hammond's positive motivations and good works be added to the scales and that you exercise your judicial discretion to grant leniency to this young man who is sincerely committed to contributing to the improvement of our society. When determining how long to sentence any defendant, it is important to consider the safety and well-being of the community from which they come. Jeremy Hammond's role in this community is overwhelmingly positive. Giving him an extended prison sentence will carve out this light and darken Chicago's streets just a little more. A prolonged absence from this community will, in fact, prevent him from being able to contribute his time and energy to volunteering and helping those in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Pitula". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large 'M' and a stylized 'P'.

Michael R. Pitula



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October 2, 2013

The Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Jeremy Hammond

Dear Judge Preska,

I've been practicing law in Chicago for almost 30 years. I do civil litigation to earn my living, but I also devote a substantial portion of my time to *pro bono publico* work as a volunteer Legal Observer for the Chicago Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild. Legal Observers go out on the streets with clients who engage in protests, demonstrations, and civil disobedience for political reasons. We are there to ensure that our clients' constitutional rights are given the respect they deserve.

I have known Jeremy Hammond for approximately 8 years, initially as a Legal Observer, but later as a neighbor as well. While first only another face in the crowd, over time Jeremy distinguished himself as an activist prepared to risk his liberty with acts of civil disobedience. Your Honor is no doubt familiar with his arrest record. As someone who was present at many of the events leading to his arrest, or present at the police lock-ups afterward, or both, I can assure you that Jeremy was always driven, not by any selfish motive, but rather by an exceedingly altruistic commitment to the causes which he advocated. And everything I saw of Jeremy's behavior in my community confirms this. Jeremy lived an ascetic life, scraping by on barely enough resources to survive. Instead of looking out for himself, he saw it as his duty to look out for others, and to help others when they needed it. He could always be counted on to help a friend or neighbor in need, frequently at the cost of substantial personal sacrifice. And his self-sacrifice extended even to what is, to him, his most precious possession, *i.e.*, his personal liberty.

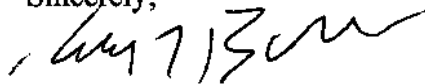
If Jeremy has a fault, it is that he loves, not wisely, but perhaps too well. Jeremy is a giving, loving soul, motivated by an ardent commitment to the betterment of humanity. He is now, once again, sacrificing his most precious possession, his freedom, for a cause he sincerely

The Honorable Loretta Preska  
October 2, 2013  
Page Two

believes to be greater than himself. His legal responsibility has been determined definitively by his plea, but his behavior as a moral person is best explained by the very American tradition of dissent and civil disobedience.

I would suggest that Your Honor consider Jeremy's motivation in determining his sentence. Jeremy is not a common criminal driven by personal gain or malice, but rather a political activist driven by an overwhelming love for humanity. I would respectfully submit that, if the worst thing you can say about this defendant is that he is bewildered by an excess of love, then he is worthy of some measure of mercy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jer 7/30", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jerome E. Boyle

JEB/mys

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October 7, 2013

Hon Judge Preska,  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl St  
New York, NY

Dear Hon Judge Preska,

I am contacting you in regard to the upcoming sentencing hearing of Jeremy Hammond. Working full time as paralegal at a law firm in Chicago, I recognize the Court's responsibility to implement the law by imposing fair and just sentences for criminal violations. As you determine the sentence for Jeremy's plea of guilty of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, I respectfully urge you to demonstrate compassion and consider the many positive contributions of this young man.

I have personally known Jeremy for several years, through his community involvement here in Chicago. While we were never particularly close, I came saw him fairly regularly and was fortunate enough to become acquainted with him through mutual friends and mutual involvement in community projects. I always found him to be friendly and pleasant. One thing that always struck me about Jeremy was his generosity and benevolent approach toward working with people and assisting others.

Jeremy was active with a number of projects and the one I was most familiar with was a community center where he volunteered. The center had a kitchen, hosted a lending library, held events and provided free tutoring and classes. On one particular occasion, I was working with a group that was responding to the financial crisis and its impact on working people and middle class families in the Chicago area. One of the things we decided to do was to prepare a large meal that would be shared publicly in the downtown area. We felt that this would be a symbolic, yet tangible demonstration of our social responsibility to ensure that those around us receive the things they need to survive. Jeremy ensured that we would be able to use the community center's kitchen and went out of his way to open the center early on a Sunday morning. He even went above and beyond, by staying at the center to help us cook and running errands to help us get supplies.

I recall another instance when I was trying to donate a box of books to one of the community center's projects. The person who responded to my email was Jeremy and he went out of his way to meet me

Hon Judge Preska,

October 7, 2013

Page 2


at a time that accommodated me and my schedule. I ended up showing up later than we had scheduled and I found Jeremy alone, doing clerical tasks. His response was not frustration or annoyance that I had inconvenienced him, but genuine appreciation that I was donating books. He seemed sincerely happy to know that by donating his time, a handful of people would be able to have access to resources they wouldn't have otherwise had.

Jeremy's unselfish attitude can also be seen in how he used and shared his computer knowledge and skills. It would not be an exaggeration to describe Jeremy's technical ability as "exceptional" or "brilliant." It always impressed me that he went out of his way to share this knowledge with members of the community and to offer his services free of charge. He would regularly set up websites or provide other technical assistance free of charge to non-profit organizations or community groups committed to social causes. Instead of using his abilities for personal wealth or fame, he chose to volunteer at community computer clinics that assist young people and underprivileged individuals from the community in learning basic computer skills necessary to do their homework, write a resume or design a website. It is notable that even in the circumstance immediately before the Court, in which Jeremy has pled guilty to utilizing his computer prowess in a way that violated federal law, he was motivated not by a selfish desire, but from a belief that his actions could benefit people in a positive way.

Jeremy's public service here in Chicago has been far-reaching and I'm sure it extends beyond activities I'm familiar with. However, I knew him to be active with and supportive of organizations working to end hunger, to end sexism and to end environmental degradation and the negative health impacts that come from it. He supported groups working for racial justice, struggling against neighborhood displacement, supportive of the rights of immigrants and building diverse communities. He did all of this while also maintaining employment and volunteering with the community center.

I am respectfully requesting that you exercise your judicial discretion to grant leniency to this young man who is sincerely committed to contributing to society. When determining how long to sentence any defendant, it is important to consider the safety and well-being of the community they are from. I can say with great confidence that Jeremy Hammond's role in this community is overwhelmingly positive and that an extended prison sentence will not make me feel more safe or secure. His prolonged absence from this community will in fact prevent him from being able to contribute his time and energy volunteering and helping those in need.

Sincerely,



Brad Thomson

Dear Judge Preska,

Before I was even in high school more than 12 years ago, Jeremy Hammond took the time to help create the foundations of my programming knowledge. Jeremy helped teach me how to program comprehensive websites and make them secure from potential hacking exploits out of his own goodwill and interest in internet security. From his kind gesture I was able to create my own web design business while I was still in high school and gain over 15 clients.

In the age of information Jeremy Hammond is an informer supporting the freedom of information. It is very disheartening for me to see a person with so much knowledge and skill to be treated as a enemy combatant, being indefinitely detained for exposing the constitutionally illegal activities private surveillance corporations undertake with little to no oversight. For a company such as Stratfor to undertake these actions and not take simple security measures to protect their own data shows a severe lack of aptitude on their part.

Jeremy Hammond is a peace activist and he used his skills to shed light into the darkness that has veiled our country for over 12 years. He had no position for financial gain in exposing these truths even though Stratfor was blatantly staging to use this information for profit. A ten year term is clearly a harsh sentence considering that Jeremy's codefendants in Ireland will not be prosecuted and those in the United Kingdom will spend no more than 16 months in prison for this act of civil disobedience. I ask for your leniency in his sentencing and I hope for the return of Jeremy to our society as soon as possible. There is nothing wrong with spreading truth in an empire of lies.

“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Conrad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Conrad".

Eric Conrad

Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

October 8, 2013

Dear Judge Preska:

My name is Max Suchan and I am a law student at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago. I also know Jeremy Hammond personally, and consider him a friend. I am aware that Jeremy has pled guilty to a violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. I am writing today to ask you for leniency when you sentence him on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout 2004 and 2005, Jeremy and I belonged to a group called Food Not Bombs, an organization that cooked hot meals several times a week to feed to homeless people and migrant workers in an economically impoverished community on the Southside of Chicago. We often cooked in Jeremy's apartment and he was always busy gathering food donations, cooking, and sharing food. I witnessed his generosity countless times, and I was always touched with his ability to deeply connect to the homeless people who came to eat, and treat them with the utmost respect. On one occasion, Jeremy spent the better part of the week gathering hundreds of winter jackets, scarves, hats and gloves to distribute during the food serving. I believe Jeremy is motivated with a sense of care and compassion rarely found to such degrees, especially in our generation.

Jeremy pleaded guilty to violating federal law. However, he did not gain anything, financially or otherwise, as a result of his actions. I am aware that his co-defendants in Ireland will not be prosecuted, and his co-defendants in the United Kingdom, already convicted, will spend no more than 16 months in prison.

Jeremy is a bright, compassionate and thoughtful person in the prime of his life. Keeping him in prison any longer will only do a disservice not only to his potential and future, but our society as well. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Max Suchan



Dear Judge Preska,

My name is Chris Howard. I am writing to you on behalf Of Midwest Books Through Bars, a non-profit group which sends out books and other reading material, free, upon request to anyone who requests it. The majority of the people who we send books to are currently incarcerated or receiving treatment at halfway houses. I became involved with this group several years ago when Jeremy introduced me to it. Im happy to say that, after almost 6 years,I still have the privilege to be working with a group that provides education and knowledge free of charge to people, who have otherwise been forgotten about in our society. Before Jeremy's arrest he was always the person who played the biggest part in Midwest Books Through Bars. Every week he would show up early and get everything set up and would often prepare food for everyone once they arrived. His selflessness could never be surpassed, I remember on several occasions where we had run out of funding for that week (as all funds we have to send out books are donated to us), and Jeremy would pay all the expenses out of pocket and never asked to be reimbursed. It's not as if he's sending out these books to his close friends, these are people he has never even met before but simply asked for some help from him. Jeremy always talked about how important education was and how nobody deserves to be denied a proper education in life. His selfless actions have inspired countless people in our community and have set a standard for how we should treat one another. I ask you, Judge, to please show leniency in his sentencing, Jeremy is someone who we need in our community and things just haven't been the same without him around.

Thank you for your time,

Chris Howard



Midwest Books Through Bars

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Chris Howard, written over a light blue horizontal line.



October 12, 2013

Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Preska,

My name is Sidoni Gonzalez, I am currently the executive director of a music school in Chicago, Illinois, and I am writing this letter in support of Jeremy Hammond. I have known Jeremy for about 3 years. Jeremy quickly became someone I admire and respect very much. His ability to connect with people and his peaceful and fun-loving energy astonished me.

Jeremy and I met doing work for Food Not Bombs in the Pilsen community in Chicago. Food Not Bombs was a food distribution program that served healthy, home cooked meals to people in the community whose access to such resources is often scarce. More recently this program has evolved into a distribution of fresh groceries. Jeremy had been part of Food Not Bombs long before I became involved with the program. He was always friendly and helpful in teaching me how Food Not Bombs worked and eager to pass on any other useful knowledge.

I was raised in the Pilsen neighborhood where I met Jeremy. Pilsen is a predominantly Latino neighborhood rich in culture, love and energy. It is located on the south side of Chicago; Pilsen is well known for its murals, art galleries, café's and generous people. Unfortunately, Pilsen also suffers from gang violence that is mostly orchestrated by the youth in the community.

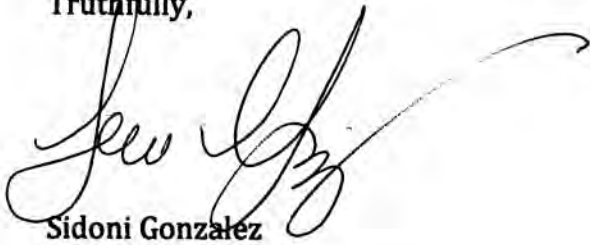
Jeremy's enthusiasm for social work inspired me to get more involved with the youth in my community. While working together we had plenty of conversations about our duties and responsibilities to those around us; and the impact we could have on the lives of those we interact with. Since then I have been able to volunteer my time at Mujeres Latinas en Accion, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping and supporting domestic abuse survivors and their families. The specific project I am involved with is Proyecto Juventud (Project Youth) a sex education, after-school program for women 12-17 years of age. We provide them with a safe space to do homework, twice a week we engage them in outdoor activities that promote physical health and create workshops that teach them leadership skills. Jeremy has been a big influence for me to get involved with such programs.

I understand that Jeremy plead guilty to violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. I honestly believe that his actions are in line to his deep-rooted beliefs of social justice and love for the world community he is a part of. His actions were non-violent and he did not do it for any personal gain. He never used any of the credit card numbers to purchase anything, let alone anything for himself and he definitely did not do it for the fame. At the time if his arrest people around Jeremy were dumbfounded and only found out the reason



for his arrest through media outlets the following day. I ask you to be lenient with his sentence. Not only because a vital member of our community would be returned to us but also because I truly believe Jeremy has many productive things to do in the community he belongs to.

Truthfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sidoni Gonzalez', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sidoni Gonzalez





**Alliance of Community Trainers, P.O. Box 1286, Austin, TX 78767**

October 16, 2013

Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Preska,

I have been organizing for nonviolent social change since the mid-70s. Almost 40 years of full-time service to causes for peace and justice. I have had the opportunity to work with tens of thousands of people all around the world and to train thousands of people in nonviolent civil disobedience. This is my life and I am very proud of it.

It was about a year or so ago that I learned that Jeremy Hammond was in jail for allegedly hacking into Strafford. I was both surprised and very concerned which is why I am writing to you now on his behalf. I do not know Jeremy well, but what I do know fills me with respect. I hope that you will see this too. I first met Jeremy in October of 2009 when he and a group of his friends, joined efforts I was involved in to urge reforms in the Banking industry at the American Bankers Association Meeting in Chicago. They had built a banker puppet and put together a little street theater. I was struck at the time by what a creative group Jeremy and his friends were.



This is Jeremy!

Jeremy was a founder of a community center in the Pilsen area of Chicago that had a library, meeting area and a kitchen. He made the kitchen available to cook food for an event we were having related to the Banking Conference.



That community center was a few blocks from the Pilsen Coal Plant. For years the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO) had been educating and organizing to close these plants. Jeremy was very interested in nonviolent social change and he invited me to come there and do an organizing and nonviolence training at the center for the community to learn more about it in their struggle against the coal plant. In 2009 the community came together to support the first of several nonviolent civil disobedience protests outside the coal plant that ultimately lead to

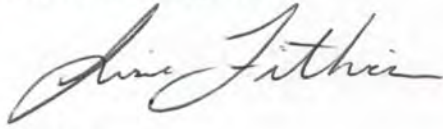
the decision to close of both coal plants in Chicago, which was a major victory for the community. Jeremy helped make this happen.

Your Honor, Jeremy is a smart, socially conscious, well meaning young man. He was kind, generous and easy to work with. In my experience his intentions are good. I believe that Jeremy has a great deal to contribute to building a healthier society and community and I hope that you will allow him to be at home when he does this work and not in prison.

Those of us with a passion to change the world have to make choices about how that change is made. We are always looking for what will make a difference. There are many great examples of the transformative power of nonviolent civil disobedience to change the world. It is in this tradition the Jeremy walks. In nonviolent action, we are prepared to assume the consequences. I understand that Jeremy has pleaded guilty to these charges. As this is the case, it is yet another example to me of his integrity. Jeremy did not benefit from anything he may have done and his actions were toward the cause of transparency which is essential for democracy.

Your Honor, we all need more compassion and Jeremy is no exception. He is a young man who I believe will make the best of his situation and find ways to contribute even if he is in jail. I hope however that you are able to limit his time in prison, if you are unable to grant him time served.

Sincerely and with respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa Fithian". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Lisa Fithian  
Alliance of Community Trainers  
United for Peace and Justice  
Organizingforpower.org



Debra Michaud



October 22, 2013

Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

RE: Jeremy Hammond sentencing

Dear Judge Preska,

I write on behalf of my friend and colleague Jeremy Hammond. I am a business owner in Chicago and a volunteer on environmental causes. I've have known Jeremy since 2009.

Jeremy and I worked very closely together in the Chicago Chapter of the Rainforest Action Network for a couple of years. I founded this all-volunteer group to raise awareness about environmental issues in the region and globally. We collaborated with other environmental organizations including the Sierra Club, Environmental Law and Policy Center, and a couple dozen other organizations on a campaign involving two of the oldest and dirtiest coal plants in the nation (a campaign that ultimately succeeded in shutting the plants down). These plants were shown by a Harvard University study to cause 40 deaths annually, in part because they were in the most densely populated areas of all power coal-fired power plants in the nation.

Jeremy and I spent countless hours together working on this and other environmental campaigns, and I got to know him quite well as a volunteer and as a friend. We attended trainings together, we organized fundraisers and events, and we worked together to help to build a vibrant environmental movement in Chicago. Jeremy was a central and important member of the group -- he not only built our website and designed promotional materials, but he contributed at every level to build a cohesive group and successful campaigns. Jeremy had a special talent to bridge different communities together. Our group attracted a wide range of volunteers from varied backgrounds -- our ages spanned 16-75, and we were a mix of professionals, students, academics, physicians, lawyers, artists, NGO directors, writers, and teachers. Jeremy was well-liked and respected by everyone. He was highly valued for his unwavering ethical clarity and commitment to living in alignment with his values.

Jeremy stood out in the group on several counts. He is an extremely hard worker and yet never sought the spotlight or recognition. Jeremy was always someone who could be counted on to meet his commitments and complete promised work.

Jeremy is open-minded and a very thoughtful team player. One could talk with Jeremy on any subject. While he always had an opinion, his concern was not controlling the direction of the group, but making sure that all voices were heard and respected. He was a persistent advocate for maintaining a truly democratic process that allowed the group to be welcoming

and open to any volunteer. He had endless patience with the sometimes messy process of decision-making in a non-hierarchical organization.

Jeremy's values can probably best be understood by looking at the close-knit home community he created. I could see that he was similarly a peacemaker and important bridge between people at home. Jeremy's world-view is a communal one, where people take care of one another and support one another. In the way that American mainstream culture endorses this of the nuclear family, Jeremy's created "family" could count on one another. His home had an open door -- if someone needed a place to stay, a warm meal, or an ear, they found a haven there. The generosity and openness of that home was palpable to any outsider who entered. This generosity and caring extended far beyond the walls of their dwelling. They volunteered countless hours in the community. They provided free hot meals in a public venue every week to anyone who showed up. They would organize fundraisers for local community groups, and organized free educational events. In the same spirit that Occupy volunteers were the ones who ended up doing much of the crucial community relief work after Hurricane Sandy, Jeremy's household worked tirelessly to make their broader community a better place for everyone.

Jeremy worked not to make or save money or buy possessions, not to make a name for himself or gain recognition. He comes from a place of selflessness. He's not about ego, heroism, self-promotion, or grandiosity. His vision for the world may be utopian, but is motivated by a great compassion for the world's oppressed. Your honor, you may not agree with Jeremy's actions that brought him to this place, and as a young man in his 20s, surely he has already grown and expanded his worldview from this experience. But Jeremy's actions did not come from malice in his heart. They came from a place of love for the world and a passion to make the world a better place for all life. This was always clear to me and to everyone who worked with Jeremy, and it is why he was able to connect with people of such different backgrounds. His deep compassion was most obvious in public events when it was always invariably Jeremy who straggled behind the crowd to help carry or push his disabled friend in a wheelchair. It was always Jeremy who made sure that no one was left behind.

Your honor, in consideration of Jeremy's character and his good behavior while in prison I ask that you please consider offering him time served as a sufficient sentence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra Michaud". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Debra" and last name "Michaud" clearly legible.

Debra Michaud

October 12, 2013

Dear Judge Preska:

My name is Robert Boyle, I am a 43-year-old business owner from Chicago. I have known and been friends with Jeremy Hammond for approximately ten years. I am writing to ask you to treat him with leniency when considering his sentencing for his violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

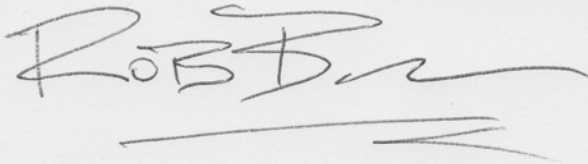
I am acquainted with Jeremy through our mutual involvement in various grassroots social justice causes. I could tell the first time I met him that he was a smart, articulate young man with passionate beliefs about making the world a better place. My experience with him from various meetings and discussion groups is that he cares deeply about countering injustices and addressing abuses of power and the systemic inequalities in our social framework. At these events he was always well spoken and respectful to others. Though I am older and do not regularly socialize with the younger activist community, Jeremy would always take the time to stop and talk whenever we ran into each other, usually while riding our bikes to respective places around the city. He often had questions for me, showing both that he recognized my past experience and had a desire to learn.

Though Jeremy is clearly knowledgeable enough with computers and programming to land a well-paying job, he preferred to devote his time and energy to activist work on various fronts. Even when unemployed or low on money, however, Jeremy was willing to share what he had with his friends or even strangers. He has never been a person motivated by greed or wealth; his primary concern has always been a desire to see a society that was based on mutual aid and cooperation, without exploitation.

The primary thing I ask you to keep in mind when sentencing Jeremy is that, though he may have violated the law, he did so because he felt it was the right thing to do. Jeremy is not a malicious person, nor is he motivated by money – by his own ethical standards, Jeremy was acting for the greater good. You may consider him misguided, but please do not consider him malevolent.

In my opinion, the CFAA imposes an unfair and unjust set of sentencing guidelines that is absurdly disproportionate to the actual crimes or damages caused. Hackers are sensationalized and demonized and often face harsh and excessive sentences that bear little relation to the actual criminal intent. Jeremy has already been imprisoned for a year and a half, far from his family and friends. He is a bright man with a hopeful future, he should be shown leniency and compassion rather than arbitrarily punished. Please consider the minimum sentencing. The world needs more people like Jeremy, who are committed to working towards a positive future; he does not deserve to be locked away.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Boyle', with a horizontal line underneath.

Robert Boyle  
Posthuman Studios LLC



*Helping You Give Wisely*

Honorable Loretta A. Preska, Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

October 10, 2013

Dear Judge Preska:

Since the beginning of 2009, I've been working full time with a nonprofit watchdog organization, CharityWatch (founded in 1992 as the American Institute of Philanthropy). I feel very lucky to be involved in the work of researching and evaluating the efficiency, accountability & governance of nonprofit organizations, and helping to inform donors about the wasteful and unethical practices of some nonprofits and to give recognition to highly effective and ethical charities. While this work has given me a deep appreciation for the risks taken by whistleblowers and the importance of transparency and accountability—I am writing to you today not in a professional capacity but to request the court's leniency on behalf of my friend, Jeremy Hammond.

I am aware that Jeremy has pled guilty to a violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. Jeremy is among the more selfless people I have had the pleasure to meet. I implore the court to show him compassion, and consider sentencing him only to time-already served.

I first met Jeremy in 2008, when my son was still an infant. My family lived in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood then, and we were very lucky to meet a network of community-minded young people who extended a warm welcome to us, gave us friendly support, and offered us opportunities to volunteer to help feed the hungry and voice our opposition to the extreme pollution in the neighborhood.

Jeremy and his brother Jason were enthusiastically committed to all of the best humanitarian and cultural efforts of that community. Jeremy is one who seemed to wash more than his share of dishes at "Food Not Bombs" meals and potlucks. He and Jason were friendly faces, inviting strangers and friends (in English & Spanish) to take part in these meals and making sure that anyone in the neighborhood who might be hungry knew where healthy food was available for free.

I remember a couple of friends who were among my son's first babysitters discussing how they might raise funds to keep the gallery/library/community space which hosted these free meals open. Their discussion was framed in terms of not asking for too much from Jeremy, who they knew would always come through in a pinch.

I remember that Jeremy encouraged an older out-of-work friend to practice typing (with more than two fingers!) and tutored him to learn basic computer skills to help him become more employable. Jeremy was so involved in helping people that it's hard to pick out one or two things that exemplify his matter-of-fact selflessness. Jason has always seemed a little more outgoing and Jeremy most likely to step up to mundane but necessary work in support of community.

3450 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 2802 ○ Chicago, IL 60657 ○ Tel: 773-529-2300 ○ [aipmail@charitywatch.org](mailto:aipmail@charitywatch.org)

[www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org)

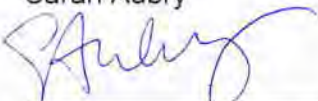
Seeing the brothers together, especially playing music, was such a treat. Both brothers have been extremely supportive of the creative efforts of our many friends in common, often the first two people dancing, and always joyfully. The combination of their infectious joy and diligent efforts to tangibly improve people's lives—this is what I think of first when I think of Jeremy and Jason. Jeremy Hammond and his brother have been such an inspiration to me, and to others who aim to cultivate community, make art, and extend help to the most vulnerable among us.

I have never known Jeremy to put his own concerns ahead of others' needs. Jeremy has not applied his great intelligence and skills with computers in the interest of personal financial gain or his own material well-being. Jeremy's actions in violation of the CFAA were politically-motivated acts of civil disobedience.

It is my understanding that Jeremy's co-defendants in Ireland and in the United Kingdom received treatment that is not nearly as harsh as what Jeremy could be facing for his civil disobedience. Those co-defendants who've already been convicted will not spend more than 16 months in prison, some have already been released. The disproportionate sentences associated with the CFAA seem inhumane at the very least, and out of line with America's ideals of political freedom.

It was such a shock to the community when Jeremy was arrested by a heavily-armed SWAT team. It has been heartbreaking to know he has been subjected to solitary confinement. His punishment has already far exceeded his crimes. Please show compassion and sentence Jeremy only to "time served." Permit him to return to his community-loving friends in Chicago for whom he has done so much.

Regards,  
Sarah Aubry





Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY. 10007

10/08/2013

Dear Judge Preska:

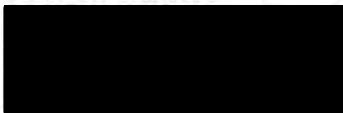
I have been made aware that on November 15<sup>th</sup> you will be deciding the fate of my good friend, Jeremy Hammond. I am writing this letter to plead with you for leniency in his case. I am aware that he has plead guilty, but I also know that, and dealing with him only within the context of the courtroom, the Jeremy that you have come to know is not the person that I know. It is not the person that cares deeply about his community, or has a dozens (if not hundreds) of people who care about him deeply, and will be hanging in desperation as you hand down your sentence. I am, and feel honored to be, one of those people.

I used to work with him at a food distro every Sunday on the South Side of Chicago. He was always excited to be there helping people. I know it is such a cliché to say that somebody is a "pillar of the community", and wouldn't use a term like that lightly. However, I do feel like it is true in his case. He is very passionate about taking care of people. A couple of years ago, I experienced this trait to its full effect. I had fallen on hard times and was on the verge of homelessness. Without me even asking, he offered to put me up for a couple of months. Long story short, it was enough time for me to turn things around and get back on my feet. To this day I am truly touched by this act of compassion, an act that most people in this world are not even capable of. This is the nature of Jeremy Hammond.

I do not wish to take up too much of your time, Your Honor. Of course, I am aware that he allegedly leaked a lot of people's information. However, I am asking that as you hand down his sentence that you remember that however long Mr. Hammond is away is the same amount of time that a truly great man (a great citizen, even) will be missing from our community. Please do the write thing, and God bless,

BEN GOODMAN

-Ben Goodman



A22



October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Preska:

I'm writing on behalf of my family, requesting your leniency in the sentencing of Jeremy Hammond. I know Jeremy, and his brother Jason, but not as activists first. I came to know them as a first-time father of a new little boy whose first couple of years were spent in the care of a circle of young friends in the neighborhood.

My acquaintance with the Hammond twins came after first meeting several of their friends at a local corner store market. They were helping the young mother who ran one of the only fresh food stores in the predominantly Latino neighborhood we lived in when my son was born. The store was very important because it was the only one catty-cornered to a school in the neighborhood that sold fresh natural produce and juice instead of soda, candy, and chips. They provided her with the flexibility in her personal life that she required as an independent small business owner, and also with the store operation. When we visited the store, sometime around our child's six-month point, these kids expressed very sincerely and sweetly their willingness to provide us exactly the kinds of support vital to all young working-class families. We badly needed it, and they quickly became a support to my young family in a vital way. They all struggled with the economy trending downward, and while my wife and I were able to, we happily paid them for help with things like child care. This was no group of freeloaders. They were hardworking, educated, kind, and grounded in reality.

Through them, after a few brief run-ins, I got to know Jason in a conversation about music. He's a funny guy. I was a total outsider to their community, and yet both of the twins welcomed my family and me with a smile and a hug every time they saw us. Jeremy and Jason, along with the majority of their friends, seemed to actually come from good working-class families, and formed a safe community for the few who didn't. Repeatedly, I witnessed Jeremy and Jason step in to help people in need. When no one else could, they found a way. They're both capable of contributing to any solution simply with no other tools than their intellect and personality. Jason is quite a jester who seems to draw a playful creative energy out of thin air. Jeremy is creative in a more focused way. They complement each other in the best way that twins can, and it's hard to imagine them not positioned side by side.

It's a rare thing these days to encounter such confident and talented kids who freely commit the

A22

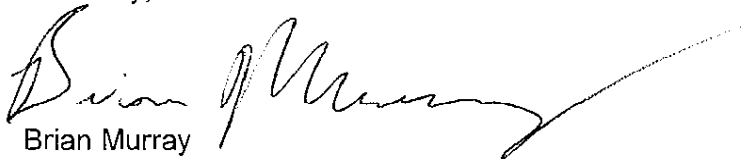
A23

majority of their time and resources to helping others. Despite their talents and many friends, I never once heard either of them make an arrogant statement or pass judgment on someone impulsively, which seems so common in general; some of the others I saw around them were no exception. I watched this community of friends look out for many in the broader community, going above and beyond what most citizens in the city of Chicago do when it comes to building a connection to their surrounding community. They not only took care of themselves, but also anyone who they could help. All of this gave significant energy to the community as it took shape in ways to face the challenges of pollution, street gangs, and acquiring basic needs like healthy food and emotional support during all types of adversity.

There is a hole here in this city with Jeremy gone. No one in my family has ever encountered a situation like this before. We've repeatedly encountered so many un-connected people willing to share their sadness and appreciation for Jeremy and his situation. So many people deeply acknowledged the sincerity and friendship that they received in brief moments of their lives with these two brothers.

I understand that he has taken responsibility for a role in what he was accused of. I'm proud of him for doing that. I see it as yet another example of his willingness to take responsibility for his world, and his impact in it. Again, I feel this is extremely rare, even worth protecting. I also know that Jeremy's last experience with prison left him with scars that will take time to recover from. Ten years, on-top of over a year of imprisonment without trial; including multiple stints in solitary, seems like an unnecessary expression of power. Please consider that Jeremy's character, however young and misguided at times he might appear, is something to nurture and not destroy.

Sincerely,



Brian Murray

A23

Richard M. Stallman

22 October 2013

Dear Judge Preska,

I've been proud to call myself a hacker since 1971. That's when I was hired by the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab to join the team that developed the lab's operating systems – for which the unofficial job title was “system hacker”. My subsequent hacking career has included developing the GNU operating system, which is often erroneously called “Linux”, and the legal hack of “copyleft” which uses copyright law to ensure that all users of a program are free to redistribute it and change it. I've received numerous awards and doctorates for my hacking, and have been invited twice to publish articles in law reviews.

Hacking means playful cleverness; a hacker is one who practices or enjoys playful cleverness. (See <http://stallman.org/articles/on-hacking.html>.) It does not particularly have to do with breaking security. Indeed, no one ever broke security on the AI lab's system, because we decided not to implement any.

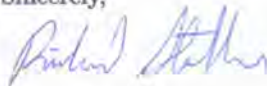
That decision, made by the original team members who became my mentors, was not taken lightly: it was the result of careful political and philosophical thought. Instead of keeping most users (those without “privileges” – which already sounds like a prison) shackled so that they could not hurt each other, we thought the lab members and guest users could learn to get along as a community, choosing not to hurt each other. And they did!

This example is not unusual for hackers. From the beginning, hackers' taste for playful cleverness has often gone along with a sense of social responsibility, concern for others' well-being. Jeremy Hammond is a fine example of a socially responsible hacker. He found a clever way to expose the many nefarious deeds that Stratfor was planning and proposing.

People should not be allowed to enter others' computers without permission; but when punishing someone for virtual trespassing, we ought to consider his motive. Those who trespass as part of a nonviolent protest, either physically or virtually, should not receive severe punishments. Those who act neither for gain nor for malice should not receive severe punishments. Imagine where our country would be if the civil rights and antiwar sit-ins had been punished by years in prison! If we do not want the US to be like Putin's Russia, imposing long sentences on protesters, we must steer clear of doing so. That applies to virtual protests as well as physical ones.

I therefore respectfully suggest that Hammond be sentenced to community service. To make use of his skills and abilities, this service could consist of helping nonprofit organizations protect their personal data.

Sincerely,



Richard Stallman  
Lead developer of the GNU system ([gnu.org](http://gnu.org))  
President, Free Software Foundation ([fsf.org](http://fsf.org))  
MacArthur Fellow  
Internet hall-of-famer ([internethalloffame.org](http://internethalloffame.org))



**HackThisSite.org***A free, safe and legal training ground for hackers and hacktivists.*

Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

October 1, 2013

Your Honor,

First, please allow us the opportunity to express our gratitude in both you spending your understandably precious time in reading our letter, as well as for serving your community in one of the most esteemed positions within the foundations of our country's trifecta of checks and balances. As you may be aware, we write you today in regards to Jeremy Hammond, in a case which you humbly preside over and hold the burden of delivering sentence. Before we begin, we would first like to formally introduce ourselves in hopes that you understand the importance of our involvement and the plea we are about to make.

We represent the staff and collective community of HackThisSite.org. In 2003, Jeremy Hammond founded a *legal* organization entitled *Hulla-Bulloo*, created to engage its users in understanding hacking, hacktivism, and all technologies and politics in between. Months later, *Hulla-Bulloo* became HackThisSite.org (hereinafter, *HTS*). To this day, HTS has remained a bastion of ethical hacking and hacktivism, a series of principles originating from Mr. Hammond, serving its community of over 1.8 million worldwide users.

We would also like to break momentarily to highlight an extremely important fact that in these and most contexts, hacking refers to the act of learning information technology security practices, and hacktivism refers to the act of being politically savvy and active with regard to technology (e.g. engaging Congressmen regarding SOPA). These are highly important distinctions because, all too often, both words hold an often unfair definition of notoriety, and we fear the wrong message is sent when an intelligent

and computer-savvy individual is bestowed the label of 'hacker' or 'hacktivist'. These are titles of pride and honor, and should be understood as such. But we digress...

Mr. Hammond, in his years of running HTS, built the idea that users can become hackers and hacktivists to not only make a change in information technology security, but indeed in the world itself as well. He held firm in his ideology that the work he did and the community he led was done in such a way to better everyone. And we believe, unwaveringly, in his core philosophy, to do whatever is necessary to make for a better and more secure world.

As we are sure you are aware, and perhaps even impacted by, the United States government at the time of this writing is in a shutdown. Furthermore, leaks by former-CIA contractor Edward Snowden have displayed massive and highly questionable domestic spying unleashed upon the citizens of the United States. These are acts that highly pain people such as ourselves, and Mr. Hammond.

In our world of hacking and political activism, we act among the spirits of those before us who fought (and sometimes died) for their beliefs in civil rights. In the mid-twentieth century, young African American men and women fought with every ounce of their lives for the right to be treated fairly, as our Constitution affords us. Many were unjustly imprisoned merely for their actions of civil disobedience, when their only crime was begging, pleading for the ability to be granted the same civil rights as those of a lighter skin tone.

Today, we hacktivists fight for similar causes. We believe in the right to perform our business, both personal and professional, with our privacy and other civil rights respected and not encroached upon. We believe in the opportunity to progress in life as our previous generations were able to. We believe in the honor and integrity of our country, including the transparency to view the actions our government performs on our behalf. We believe in the ability to operate our country as the constituents which place our representatives in place to perform our collective desires, and do so without fear of reprisal or reprimand. But above all, we believe in our ability to make change happen when nothing else works.

What Mr. Hammond did, he did as an act of solidarity with the support of those of us too afraid to act, for fear of being punished as Mr. Hammond is today. What Mr. Hammond did is akin to the acts of Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning (formerly Bradley Manning), Barrett Brown, Julian Assange, and many others, whose only true crime was not being able to be the change they sacrificed themselves to be. Mr. Hammond, along with the aforementioned others, did what they believed was the most righteous path to invoke the change necessary for us to survive and progress.

It is no secret that the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) has been interpreted far, far beyond its original intent by many courts in ways unimaginable when it was passed in 1984. In the almost *thirty* years since this law was passed, computing technology has progressed beyond anything conceivable. In fact, in 1984, the Internet, personal computing, email, and practically everything else technology-wise were unknown to the general world, exclusively available only to select government agencies and educational institutions. It is therefore impossible to appropriately apply its original writings as implied in 1984 to today's standards and technology, as far too much has changed in the three decades since. The Electronic Frontier Foundation, an active participant in Mr. Hammond's case, has written much on this problem:

<https://www.eff.org/issues/cfaa>

Judge Preska, you have the authority to hand down a sentence, up to ten years, that we at HTS and thousands of others feel is outside the original intentions of the CFAA. You are a kind and just woman who honorably obtained your esteemed position of Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and we absolutely understand the necessity of your role as a United States judge to properly interpret the law and apply it as delicately as necessary, ensuring a punishment is properly and fairly befitting. You hold the responsibility of interpreting and enforcing law, and the ultimate and most heavy burden of delivering a sentence.

Therefore, we must implore you to consider the fairness of applying a thirty-year-old law and its years of wildly disproportionate interpretations when sentencing a young man, Mr. Hammond, for acts he believed were truly necessary to ensure the continued safety and security of our great nation and its people. We appeal to your kindness, to your civility, and, most importantly, to your own desire for personal freedom and civil rights, to understand Mr. Hammond's actions, and deliver a sentence that is truly fair.

Your Honor, we beg of your compassion: In honor of civil rights and a most fair delivery of punishment, please do not deliver a ten year sentence. Mr. Hammond's co-defendants in Ireland and the United Kingdom who were already convicted faced no more than 16 months, some of which have already been released. Mr. Hammond has already spent over one and one half years incarcerated for his act, and we feel he should not face much more time imprisoned than truly necessary, which a thirty-year-old far outside its times and technology law cannot account for.

If the inconceivable burden were upon us to pass sentence, we would impose upon Mr. Hammond not more than 6 additional months in prison, and a minimum five years of probation, heavily restricted from computer use and mandated to undergo therapy for the abusive use of computing technology. Judge Preska, you hold the exclusive ability to set a reasonable precedent for future computing crimes, and show that the CFAA can be used fairly and justly in the modern times since its inception. We

trust you will do what is right, and show the nation and the world the United States justice system has adapted appropriately with technology and the crimes that come with it.

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,

*~ HackThisSite.org Staff ~*





# McGill

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Honorable Loretta A. Preska  
Chief Judge  
Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Preska,

October 10, 2013

I hold the Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technology Literacy at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. My teaching, research and writing all focus on computer hackers, with a particular focus on the development of Free and Open Source Software and the protest movement Anonymous. My research has guided me to view hackers as computer aficionados driven by an inquisitive passion for tinkering and committed to an ethical version of information freedom. So often misrepresented in popular culture simply as the practice of a deviant subculture, my research demonstrates how hackers have recast and bolstered civil liberties—notably privacy and free speech—through new modes of technical production and political engagement.

I first met Jeremy Hammond online while researching Anonymous and subsequently met him in person (in prison) to interview him for my book on the topic. Given what I know about Jeremy Hammond and Anonymous, there is no doubt in my mind his participation and his actions were politically principled and constitutes civil disobedience. I write to you both to ask for leniency in sentencing and, foremost, to recognize his activity with Anonymous not as nefarious criminality but as politically motivated and conscientious acts.

To be clear: I support laws that address crime, both offline and online; I believe those who choose to break the law, even for political reasons, must be willing to accept and contend with the legal consequences of their actions. Nevertheless, punishment must be proportional to the act and reflect the social and political context in which they occur. To treat protesters as criminals distorts the democratic process, failing to take into account motives, intentions, and effects.

One reason it may be difficult to perceive his actions as activism has to do with the prevalent stereotypes and distortions surrounding both the figure of the hacker and the protest ensemble Anonymous. To be sure, there are a great many criminals who use their technical skills to hack into computer systems for fraud and financial gain. But there are tens of thousands of technologists all over the world who wear the badge of hacker with pride. For instance, the

inventor of the World Wide Web, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, described himself a hacker in a short poem on a mailing list announcing the suicide of another hacker and Internet activist, Aaron Swartz, who was facing decades in jail for downloading a large trove of copyrighted academic articles. Upending convention, as many hackers are inclined to do, he described the youthful Swartz as a hacker and wise elder:

"Aaron dead.  
Wanderers in this crazy world,  
we have lost a mentor, a wise elder.  
Hackers for right, we are one down,  
we have lost one of our own."

Hacking may also confound as it plays host to a multitude of activities with no single institutional base and exhibits a political complexion of diverse hues and tones. For instance, on the technical front, a hacker's activity might consist of programming, security research, network administration, or hardware tinkering. Ethically and politically, the variability is just as pronounced. There are free software hackers who write programs, like the web browser Firefox, which are rendered open source through the use of innovative licensing schemes (which they invented and which hold legal muster); hardware hackers who hang out in hacker spaces tinkering with gadgets; cryptographers who use complex mathematical algorithms to build tools in an attempt to prevent corporate and state snooping; security researchers, sometimes referred to as breakers, who hack into systems to improve security; and other hackers, like Jeremy Hammond, who belong to a hacktivist tradition, which dates back to the early 1990s, oriented towards the channeling of technical skills toward political ends.

Jeremy Hammond is thus part of a large, internally diverse and global community of hackers who are engaged citizens. Hackers, like Jeremy Hammond, love to debate not simply about the intricacies of technical design but also regarding the role, and place, of surveillance, privacy and access in society. They may not always agree on how to politically solve current problems—indeed, they are quite sectarian in their views—but an increasing number use their skills to engender political change. Some do so through policy work while others, like Jeremy Hammond, express themselves through direct action. In short, a decade-plus of anthropological fieldwork among hackers and like-minded geeks has led me to the firm conviction that these hackers and geeks are building a vibrant civil liberties movement. These hackers are committed to freeing information, insisting on privacy and fighting censorship, which in turn propels wide-ranging political activity.

Within this diverse and expanding ecology of hacker-based activity—one might even view it as an emerging digital environmentalism—Anonymous specializes in acts of disobedience, defiance and protest. Anonymous is a banner used by both individuals and groups unfurling operations across the globe, from Brazil to the Philippines, the Dominican Republic to India. Since 2008, activists have used the name to organize diverse forms of collective action, ranging from street protests against the Church of Scientology to web site defacements. Their iconography—Guy

Fawkes masks and headless suited men—symbolically asserts the idea of anonymity, which they embody in deed and words. It is adept at magnifying issues, boosting existing (and usually oppositional) movements and converting amorphous discontent into a tangible form.

Hammond was attracted to Anonymous for how it has become a wide open platform for very different types of people around the world to collectively work toward the goal of exposing corruption and lend a helping hand to existing movements, such as the Arab Spring of 2011. He was particularly keen to work with hackers to disclose corporate and government wrongdoing. We may not always agree on the path taken by him, or others in Anonymous, but it is vital to recognize their interventions as principled dissent. To treat protesters, such as Jeremy Hammond, as criminals distorts and violates the social contract that ostensibly undergirds political norms in a modern civil society which purports to honor and reserve a place for civil disobedience.

The law under which he is charged, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, tends to lead to far more extreme punishments when compared to analogous offline ones. Offline protesting tactics, such as trespass or vandalism of property, rarely results in catastrophic criminal consequences for participants, even for the leaders of social movements. Yet that same nuance, which fundamentally recognizes the intention and the consequences of actions, is rarely extended to online activities, especially when the CFAA is invoked. As a result, analogous behavior which might earn an offender an infraction or misdemeanor offline, with a penalty of perhaps thirty days in jail, is under the CFAA excessively punished as a felony. Criminal punishments for such acts can stretch out to years and fines are astronomically high, leaving dissenters destitute. The difference in punishments--and the willingness to even prosecute in the first place--have rendered similar acts wholly incomparable by our legal system. We routinely see offline actions such as trespass treated as political acts, while similar online behaviors are, without exception, deemed criminal.

My students, like many members of society today, spend much of their time online. They communicate with their family and friends through social media, rely on a search engines to kick start research, shop for all sorts of consumer goods, seek advice on anonymous boards during troubled times, read the news from dozens of different online publications and, increasingly, use the Internet as a political platform. The Internet is here to stay and as it weaves itself more tightly into the fabric of our everyday lives it is imperative to preserve the possibility of *different* online political organizational modalities. If punishments for intended acts of civil disobedience are excessive, an entire generation conditioned to engaging online will be robbed of the opportunity to exercise their beliefs through direct action and civil disobedience in their chosen venue. Civil disobedience already in its offline life, is only attractive to a small number of individuals willing to bear the possible consequences.

Dissent of the sort Jeremy Hammond participated in allows citizens to exercise their rights and demonstrate on behalf of the causes they embrace. His breach of the law was conscientious and

intentioned to expose wrong doing with the goal of catalyzing debate and stimulating change. The personal risk and sacrifice that inherently comes with political law breaking means very few citizens will ever elect to engage in civil disobedience; for the small class of individuals willing to stand up for what they believe in—as Jeremy Hammond stated he did—it is vital to preserve a space which allows them to do so.



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<https://freejeremy.net/2013/02/20/aaron-swartz-and-the-criminalization-of-digital-dissent/>

## Aaron Swartz and the Criminalization of Digital Dissent

The tragic death of internet freedom fighter Aaron Swartz reveals the government's flawed "cyber security strategy" as well as its systematic corruption involving computer crime investigations, intellectual property law, and government/corporate transparency. In a society supposedly based on principles of democracy and due process, Aaron's efforts to liberate the internet, including free distribution of JSTOR academic essays, access to public court records on PACER, stopping the passage of SOPA/PIPA, and developing the Creative Commons, make him a hero, not a criminal. It is not the "crimes" Aaron may have committed that made him a target of federal prosecution, but his ideas – elaborated in his "Guerrilla Open Access Manifesto" – that the government has found so dangerous. The United States Attorney's aggressive prosecution, riddled with abuse and misconduct, is what led to the death of this hero. This sad and angering chapter should serve as a wake up call for all of us to acknowledge the danger inherent in our criminal justice system.

Aaron's case is part of the recent aggressive, politically-motivated expansion of computer crime law where hackers and activists are increasingly criminalized because of alleged "cyber-terrorist" threats. The United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Preet Bharara, whose office is prosecuting me and my co-defendants in the Lulzsec indictment, has used alarmist rhetoric such as the threat of an imminent "Pearl Harbor like cyber attack" to justify these prosecutions. At the same time the government routinely trains and deploys their own hackers to launch sophisticated cyber attacks against the infrastructure of foreign countries, such as the Stuxnet and Flame viruses, without public knowledge, oversight, declarations of war, or consent from international authorities. DARPA, US Cyber Command, the NSA, and numerous federally-contracted private corporations openly recruit hackers to develop defensive and offensive capabilities and build Orwellian digital surveillance networks, designed not to enhance national security but to advance U.S. imperialism. They even attend and speak at hacker conferences, such as DEFCON, offer to bribe hackerspaces for their research, and created the insulting "National Civic Hacker Day" – efforts which should be boycotted or confronted every step of the way.

Aaron is a hero because he refused to play along with the government's agenda, instead he used his brilliance and passion to create a more transparent society. Through the free software movement, open publishing and file sharing, and development of cryptography and anonymity technology, digital activists have revealed the poverty of neo-liberalism and intellectual property. Aaron opposed reducing everything to a commodity to be bought or sold for a profit.

The rise in effectiveness of, and public support for, movements like Anonymous and Wikileaks has led to an expansion of computer crime investigations – most importantly enhancements to 18 U.S.C § 1030, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA). Over the years the CFAA has been amended five times and has gone through a number of important court rulings that have greatly

expanded what the act covers concerning “accessing a protected computer without authorization.” It is now difficult to determine exactly what conduct would be considered legal. The definition of a “protected computer” has been incrementally expanded to include any government or corporate computer in or outside the U.S. “Authorization,” not explicitly defined by the CFAA, has also been expanded to be so ambiguous that any use of a website, network, or PC that is outside of the interest, agenda, or contractual obligations of a private or government entity could be criminalized. In Aaron’s case and others the government has defined violating a service’s Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), Terms of Service (TOS), or End-User License Agreement (EULA) as illegal. Every time you sign up for a service like Gmail, Hotmail, or Facebook and click the “I agree” button that follows a long contract that no one ever reads, you could be prosecuted under the CFAA if you violate any of the terms.

The sheer number of everyday computer users who could be considered criminals under these broad and ambiguous definitions enables the politically motivated prosecution of anyone who voices dissent. The CFAA should be found unconstitutional under the void-for-vagueness doctrine of the due process clause. Instead, Congress proposed bills last year which would double the statutory maximum sentences and introduce mandatory minimum sentences, similar to the excessive sentences imposed in drug cases which have been widely opposed by many federal and state judges.

The “Operation Payback” case in San Jose, California is another miscarriage of justice where 16 suspected Anonymous members (including a 16 year old boy) allegedly participated in a denial-of-service action against PayPal in protest of it’s financial blockade of Wikileaks. Denial-of-service does not “exceed authorized access,” as it is virtually indistinguishable from standard web requests. It is more akin to an electronic sit-in protest, overloading the website’s servers making it incapable of serving legitimate traffic, than a criminal act involving stolen private information or destruction of servers. PayPal’s website was only slow or unavailable for a matter of hours, yet these digital activists face prison time of more that 10 years, \$250,000 in fines, and felony convictions because the government wants to criminalize this form of internet protest and send a warning to would be Wikileaks supporters.

Another recent case is that of Andrew “Weev” Auernheimer, who last November was convicted under the CFAA. Andrew discovered that AT&T was publishing customer names and email addresses on it’s public-facing website, without password protection, encryption, or firewalls. Instead of acknowledging their own mistake in violating customer privacy, AT&T sought prison time for Andrew. Andrew has defended his actions saying, “We have not only a right as Americans to analyze things that corporations publish and make publicly accessible but perhaps a moral obligation to tell people about it.”

I am currently facing multiple computer hacking conspiracy charges due to my alleged involvement with Anonymous, LulzSec, and AntiSec, groups which have targeted and exposed corruption in government institutions and corporations such as Stratfor, The Arizona Department of Public Safety, and HB Gary Federal. My potential sentence is dramatically increased because the Patriot Act expanded the CFAA’s definition of “loss.” This allowed Stratfor to claim over 5 million dollars in damages, including the exorbitant cost of hiring outside credit protection agencies and “infosec” corporations, purchasing new servers, 1.6 million dollars in “lost

potential revenue” for the time their website was down, and even the cost of a 1.3 million dollar settlement for a class action lawsuit filed against them. Coupled with use of “sophisticated means” and “affecting critical infrastructure” sentence enhancements, if convicted at trial I am facing a sentence of 30-years-to-life.

Dirty trial tactics and lengthy sentences are not anomalies but are part of a fundamentally flawed and corrupt two-tiered system of “justice” which seeks to reap profits from the mass incarceration of millions, especially people of color and the impoverished. The use of informants who cooperate in exchange for lighter sentences is not just utilized in the repressive prosecutions of protest movements and manufactured “terrorist” Islamophobic witch-hunts, but also in most drug cases, where defendants face some of the harshest sentences in the world.

For Aaron Swartz, himself facing 13 felony CFAA charges, it is likely that it was this intense pressure from relentless and uncompromising prosecutors, who, while being aware of Aaron’s psychological fragility, continued to demand prison time, that led to his untimely death.

Due to widespread public outrage, there is talk of congressional investigations into the CFAA. But since the same Congress had proposed increased penalties not even one year ago, any efforts at reform are unlikely to be more than symbolic. What is needed is not reform but total transformation; not amendments but abolition. Aaron is a hero to me because he did not wait for those in power to realize his vision and change their game, he sought to change the game himself, and he did so without fear of being labeled a criminal and imprisoned by a backwards system of justice.

We the people demand free and equal access to information and technology. We demand transparency and accountability from governments and big corporations, and privacy for the masses from invasive surveillance networks.

The government will never be forgiven. Aaron Swartz will never be forgotten.

<https://freejeremy.net/2013/05/28/statement-from-jeremy-regarding-his-plea/>

## Statement from Jeremy Regarding His Plea

Today I pleaded guilty to one count of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. This was a very difficult decision. I hope this statement will explain my reasoning. I believe in the power of the truth. In keeping with that, I do not want to hide what I did or to shy away from my actions. This non-cooperating plea agreement frees me to tell the world what I did and why, without exposing any tactics or information to the government and without jeopardizing the lives and well-being of other activists on and offline.

During the past 15 months I have been relatively quiet about the specifics of my case as I worked with my lawyers to review the discovery and figure out the best legal strategy. There were numerous problems with the government's case, including the credibility of FBI informant Hector Monsegur. However, because prosecutors stacked the charges with inflated damages figures, I was looking at a sentencing guideline range of over 30 years if I lost at trial. I have wonderful lawyers and an amazing community of people on the outside who support me. None of that changes the fact that I was likely to lose at trial. But, even if I was found not guilty at trial, the government claimed that there were eight other outstanding indictments against me from jurisdictions scattered throughout the country. If I had won this trial I would likely have been shipped across the country to face new but similar charges in a different district. The process might have repeated indefinitely. Ultimately I decided that the most practical route was to accept this plea with a maximum of a ten year sentence and immunity from prosecution in every federal court.

Now that I have pleaded guilty it is a relief to be able to say that I did work with Anonymous to hack Stratfor, among other websites. Those others included military and police equipment suppliers, private intelligence and information security firms, and law enforcement agencies. I did this because I believe people have a right to know what governments and corporations are doing behind closed doors. I did what I believe is right.

I have already spent 15 months in prison. For several weeks of that time I have been held in solitary confinement. I have been denied visits and phone calls with my family and friends. This plea agreement spares me, my family, and my community a repeat of this grinding process.

I would like to thank all of my friends and supporters for their amazing and ongoing gestures of solidarity. Today I am glad to shoulder the responsibility for my actions and to move one step closer to daylight.

Jeremy Hammond



<https://freejeremy.net/2013/08/19/statement-from-jeremy-hammond-read-at-august-19th-fundraiser/>

## **Statement from Jeremy Hammond, read at August 19th fundraiser**

Rebel greeting!

I hope this evening finds you all in the best of health and highest of spirit. Thanks for coming out to show support for me and Barrett Brown.

I want to shout out to all my brothers and sisters locked down, here at New York Metropolitan Correctional Center, at Brooklyn MDC, at Rikers Island, in the Tombs, at Cook County Jail in Chicago, and to all those on hunger strikes in California prisons and Guantanamo Bay.

And to Bradley Manning, Barrett Brown, Julian Assange, the Tinley Park Five, the NATO Five, Jerry Koch, and my wonderful twin brother, Jason Hammond.

Also thanks to the folks who put this event together, who have attended my court dates, who have written letters and sent books, and who went to the noise demonstrations outside the jail here. Your acts of solidarity bring us all great encouragement, inspiration, and strength during these harsh times.

Comrades, we are up against a racist capitalist power structure that wages wars, destroys the environment and spies on our every move! They lock up millions of people in cages for “crimes” that corrupt governments and multi-national corporations also commit on an everyday basis and on a greater magnitude, yet we are the criminals.

They lock us up for guns and drugs when defense contractors and pharmaceutical companies are the top traffickers.

They call us thieves when it’s Wall Street 1%ers who rob us blind, exploit our labor, evict us out of our homes, and get billion dollar bailouts.

They condemn hackers and leakers when the NSA, CIA, and FBI illegally spy on everybody, and wage cyber espionage through viruses and hacking for foreign government systems.

They put signs everywhere that say “If you see something, say something” as if their extensive surveillance camera systems aren’t, they want us to become additional eyes and ears for the police against our own neighbors.

But if you point out suspicious activities of our own government, if you leak information that should be free and public anyway, then they will follow you to the ends of the Earth to put you in prison.

Even if you simply report on these leaks, they will discredit you, subpoena you for your sources, or just put you in prison on a bunch of trumped up charges like they did Barrett Brown.

They repress us, infiltrate us, entrap us, harass our families and friends, and call us criminals, terrorists, and traitors, and break their own laws to try to stop us because we work to expose the truth.

They are scared that if people know the truth, the day will come when they will have to answer for their own crimes.

But can we trust whatever “independent review panel” they put together to investigate the NSA? After all the lies and egregious illegality, do you think any of them will be charged or do time? Will we ever be satisfied with any reforms they promise?

The answer is obviously no.

Justice can never be found in their courtrooms.

Yes, we need to eliminate mandatory minimum sentences, but Attorney General Eric Holder doesn't give a damn about prison overcrowding.

The Obama administration is not interested in any such debate about “the balance of privacy and security” because they will keep spying on everyone, regardless of public opinion, until we stop them.

The time for talk is over, it's time for collective refusal, civil disobedience, and direct action. We must support all those who risked their freedom and lives to expose and confront the power structure, and continue the struggle until we stop these wars and the prison walls come crumbling down and we can all be together again free and equal!

Yours for the revolution,  
Jeremy Hammond

<https://freejeremy.net/2013/11/15/jeremy-hammonds-sentencing-statement-11152013/>

## Jeremy Hammond's Sentencing Statement, 11/15/2013

*Please note: We have redacted a portion [marked in red] upon the orders of Judge Preska. While we believe the public has a right to know the redacted information therein, we refuse to publish information that could adversely affect Jeremy or his counsel.*

Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Jeremy Hammond and I'm here to be sentenced for hacking activities carried out during my involvement with Anonymous. I have been locked up at MCC for the past 20 months and have had a lot of time to think about how I would explain my actions.

Before I begin, I want to take a moment to recognize the work of the people who have supported me. I want to thank all the lawyers and others who worked on my case: Elizabeth Fink, Susan Kellman, Sarah Kunstler, Emily Kunstler, Margaret Kunstler, and Grainne O'Neill. I also want to thank the National Lawyers Guild, the Jeremy Hammond Defense Committee and Support Network, Free Anons, the Anonymous Solidarity Network, Anarchist Black Cross, and all others who have helped me by writing a letter of support, sending me letters, attending my court dates, and spreading the word about my case. I also want to shout out my brothers and sisters behind bars and those who are still out there fighting the power.

The acts of civil disobedience and direct action that I am being sentenced for today are in line with the principles of community and equality that have guided my life. I hacked into dozens of high profile corporations and government institutions, understanding very clearly that what I was doing was against the law, and that my actions could land me back in federal prison. But I felt that I had an obligation to use my skills to expose and confront injustice—and to bring the truth to light.

Could I have achieved the same goals through legal means? I have tried everything from voting petitions to peaceful protest and have found that those in power do not want the truth to be exposed. When we speak truth to power we are ignored at best and brutally suppressed at worst. We are confronting a power structure that does not respect its own system of checks and balances, never mind the rights of it's own citizens or the international community.

My introduction to politics was when George W. Bush stole the Presidential election in 2000, then took advantage of the waves of racism and patriotism after 9/11 to launch unprovoked imperialist wars against Iraq and Afghanistan. I took to the streets in protest naively believing our voices would be heard in Washington and we could stop the war. Instead, we were labeled as traitors, beaten, and arrested.

I have been arrested for numerous acts of civil disobedience on the streets of Chicago, but it wasn't until 2005 that I used my computer skills to break the law in political protest. I was

arrested by the FBI for hacking into the computer systems of a right-wing, pro-war group called Protest Warrior, an organization that sold racist t-shirts on their website and harassed anti-war groups. I was charged under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and the “intended loss” in my case was arbitrarily calculated by multiplying the 5000 credit cards in Protest Warrior’s database by \$500, resulting in a total of \$2.5 million. My sentencing guidelines were calculated on the basis of this “loss,” even though not a single credit card was used or distributed – by me or anyone else. I was sentenced to two years in prison.

While in prison I have seen for myself the ugly reality of how the criminal justice system destroys the lives of the millions of people held captive behind bars. The experience solidified my opposition to repressive forms of power and the importance of standing up for what you believe.

When I was released, I was eager to continue my involvement in struggles for social change. I didn’t want to go back to prison, so I focused on above-ground community organizing. But over time, I became frustrated with the limitations, of peaceful protest, seeing it as reformist and ineffective. The Obama administration continued the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, escalated the use of drones, and failed to close Guantanamo Bay.

Around this time, I was following the work of groups like Wikileaks and Anonymous. It was very inspiring to see the ideas of hactivism coming to fruition. I was particularly moved by the heroic actions of Chelsea Manning, who had exposed the atrocities committed by U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. She took an enormous personal risk to leak this information – believing that the public had a right to know and hoping that her disclosures would be a positive step to end these abuses. It is heart-wrenching to hear about her cruel treatment in military lockup.

I thought long and hard about choosing this path again. I had to ask myself, if Chelsea Manning fell into the abysmal nightmare of prison fighting for the truth, could I in good conscience do any less, if I was able? I thought the best way to demonstrate solidarity was to continue the work of exposing and confronting corruption.

I was drawn to Anonymous because I believe in autonomous, decentralized direct action. At the time Anonymous was involved in operations in support of the Arab Spring uprisings, against censorship, and in defense of Wikileaks. I had a lot to contribute, including technical skills, and how to better articulate ideas and goals. It was an exciting time – the birth of a digital dissent movement, where the definitions and capabilities of hacktivism were being shaped.

I was especially interested in the work of the hackers of LulzSec who were breaking into some significant targets and becoming increasingly political. Around this time, I first started talking to Sabu, who was very open about the hacks he supposedly committed, and was encouraging hackers to unite and attack major government and corporate systems under the banner of Anti Security. But very early in my involvement, the other Lulzsec hackers were arrested, leaving me to break into systems and write press releases. Later, I would learn that Sabu had been the first one arrested, and that the entire time I was talking to him he was an FBI informant.

Anonymous was also involved in the early stages of Occupy Wall Street. I was regularly participating on the streets as part of Occupy Chicago and was very excited to see a worldwide mass movement against the injustices of capitalism and racism. In several short months, the “Occupations” came to an end, closed by police crackdowns and mass arrests of protestors who were kicked out of their own public parks. The repression of Anonymous and the Occupy Movement set the tone for Antisec in the following months – the majority of our hacks against police targets were in retaliation for the arrests of our comrades.

I targeted law enforcement systems because of the racism and inequality with which the criminal law is enforced. I targeted the manufacturers and distributors of military and police equipment who profit from weaponry used to advance U.S. political and economic interests abroad and to repress people at home. I targeted information security firms because they work in secret to protect government and corporate interests at the expense of individual rights, undermining and discrediting activists, journalists and other truth seekers, and spreading disinformation.

I had never even heard of Stratfor until Sabu brought it to my attention. Sabu was encouraging people to invade systems, and helping to strategize and facilitate attacks. He even provided me with vulnerabilities of targets passed on by other hackers, so it came as a great surprise when I learned that Sabu had been working with the FBI the entire time.

On December 4, 2011, Sabu was approached by another hacker who had already broken into Stratfor’s credit card database. Sabu, under the watchful eye of his government handlers, then brought the hack to Antisec by inviting this hacker to our private chatroom, where he supplied download links to the full credit card database as well as the initial vulnerability access point to Stratfor’s systems.

I spent some time researching Stratfor and reviewing the information we were given, and decided that their activities and client base made them a deserving target. I did find it ironic that Stratfor’s wealthy and powerful customer base had their credit cards used to donate to humanitarian organizations, but my main role in the attack was to retrieve Stratfor’s private email spools which is where all the dirty secrets are typically found.

It took me more than a week to gain further access into Stratfor’s internal systems, but I eventually broke into their mail server. There was so much information, we needed several servers of our own in order to transfer the emails. Sabu, who was involved with the operation at every step, offered a server, which was provided and monitored by the FBI. Over the next weeks, the emails were transferred, the credit cards were used for donations, and Stratfor’s systems were defaced and destroyed. Why the FBI would introduce us to the hacker who found the initial vulnerability and allow this hack to continue remains a mystery.

As a result of the Stratfor hack, some of the dangers of the unregulated private intelligence industry are now known. It has been revealed through Wikileaks and other journalists around the world that Stratfor maintained a worldwide network of informants that they used to engage in intrusive and possibly illegal surveillance activities on behalf of large multinational corporations.

After Stratfor, I continued to break into other targets, using a powerful “zero day exploit” allowing me administrator access to systems running the popular Plesk webhosting platform. Sabu asked me many times for access to this exploit, which I refused to give him. Without his own independent access, Sabu continued to supply me with lists of vulnerable targets. I broke into numerous websites he supplied, uploaded the stolen email accounts and databases onto Sabu’s FBI server, and handed over passwords and backdoors that enabled Sabu (and, by extension, his FBI handlers) to control these targets.

These intrusions, all of which were suggested by Sabu while cooperating with the FBI, affected thousands of domain names and consisted largely of foreign government websites, including those of **XXXXXX**, **XXXXXX**, **XXXX**, **XXXXXX**, **XXXXX**, **XXXXXXXXXX**, **XXXXXXXX** and the **XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX**. In one instance, Sabu and I provided access information to hackers who went on to deface and destroy many government websites in **XXXXXX**. I don’t know how other information I provided to him may have been used, but I think the government’s collection and use of this data needs to be investigated.

The government celebrates my conviction and imprisonment, hoping that it will close the door on the full story. I took responsibility for my actions, by pleading guilty, but when will the government be made to answer for its crimes?

The U.S. hypes the threat of hackers in order to justify the multi billion dollar cyber security industrial complex, but it is also responsible for the same conduct it aggressively prosecutes and claims to work to prevent. The hypocrisy of “law and order” and the injustices caused by capitalism cannot be cured by institutional reform but through civil disobedience and direct action. Yes I broke the law, but I believe that sometimes laws must be broken in order to make room for change.

In the immortal word of Frederick Douglas, “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.”

This is not to say that I do not have any regrets. I realize that I released the personal information of innocent people who had nothing to do with the operations of the institutions I targeted. I apologize for the release of data that was harmful to individuals and irrelevant to my goals. I believe in the individual right to privacy – from government surveillance, and from actors like myself, and I appreciate the irony of my own involvement in the trampling of these rights. I am committed to working to make this world a better place for all of us. I still believe in the importance of hactivism as a form of civil disobedience, but it is time for me to move on to other ways of seeking change. My time in prison has taken a toll on my family, friends, and community. I know I am needed at home. I recognize that 7 years ago I stood before a different federal judge, facing similar charges, but this does not lessen the sincerity of what I say to you today.

It has taken a lot for me to write this, to explain my actions, knowing that doing so — honestly — could cost me more years of my life in prison. I am aware that I could get as many as 10 years, but I hope that I do not, as I believe there is so much work to be done.

STAY STRONG AND KEEP STRUGGLING!

<https://freejeremy.net/2014/01/24/greetings-from-manchester-kentucky/>

## **Greetings from Manchester, Kentucky!**

Greetings from Manchester, Kentucky!

It has been a miserable chain of bus rides and holdovers through MDC Brooklyn, FDC Philadelphia, FCI Petersberg VA, and USP Atlanta GA, but I have finally arrived at my destination: FCI Manchester, a medium-security federal prison in Kentucky. It is good to be able to breath fresh air in the yard and get in the groove of doing this time.

Those who were upset about the lengthy sentence, rest easy knowing that it will not break me: I remain defiant as ever, and encourage others to turn that anger into action. The purpose of their politically motivated prosecutions is to try to deter and silence us, so it's on us now to up the ante: to escalate the struggle, to create anarchy.

Thanks everybody for having my back.

YOURS FOR THE REVOLUTION,  
JEREMY



<https://freejeremy.net/2014/06/01/jeremy-hammond-reacts-to-hector-monsegurs-sentencing-reject-the-nsa-white-hat-sabu-ideology/>

## **Jeremy Hammond Reacts to Hector Monsegur's "Sentencing": Reject the NSA White Hat Sabu Ideology**

In many ways, the disgusting spectacle of Sabu's hearing was similar to mine: we were both sentenced in the same courtroom under the same judge, the outcome already predetermined with all parties reading from well-rehearsed scripts. I was condemned to the maximum prison term for having committed "mass mayhem," while Sabu received the most lenient of all Anonymous-related sentences for embracing "good, not evil". Hugs and high-fives all around as Judge Preska saluted Sabu for having betrayed his comrades and his ideals, preventing hundreds of cyber attacks, and helping the FBI catch their "most wanted cybercrime target".

The government hopes the case is closed and that the public will swallow this superficial narrative that even they probably had a hard time reciting in court with a straight face. But unanswered questions remain, and they have made every attempt to prevent the evidence from being seen by the public, because it provides yet another confirmation that the US is involved in widespread hacking and surveillance operations far greater than any of the supposed crimes they lock us up for.

Prosecutors assert that Sabu's cooperation prevent "over 300 cyber attacks," but not once during my involvement with Anonymous were any of my attacks stopped despite the FBI's full knowledge. To be fair, while breaking into a few targets I noticed attempts to lock their systems down, but I had owned and backdoored each target so thoroughly that they were unable to protect themselves (demonstrating the futility of the defenses of so-called security professionals). Other targets the FBI never bothered to notify at all – they sat by and watched them being owned one after another. The US Attorney only explicitly charged me with hacking a dozen or so entities, but they were well aware according to chat logs and evidence recovered from my computer that there were hundreds more that have never been publicly named. I shed no tears for these law enforcement agencies and federally contracted corporations, but I wonder how they feel about the FBI's inability or unwillingness to protect them.

The FBI was, however, very interested in our techniques and capabilities, particularly the Plesk 0day root vulnerability. When Sabu's beggings for a copy of the exploit were denied, he scanned the internet and identified lists of vulnerable foreign government websites which he then asked me to hack. The government reframes this blatant espionage plot in their sentencing memorandum saying that Sabu helped protect other governments from cyber attacks. Because evidence was withheld (Sabu's interviews and statements with the FBI) or under a protective order (chat logs), it is unknown what they ended up doing with these backdoors. What is clear is that the US cyber security agenda is less interested in preventing attacks on our own soil than they are using the skills of rogue hackers to spy on valuable intelligence targets.

By aggressively prosecuting hackers who play by their own rules, they want to deter others from taking up the cause and hope future arrests will yield more aspiring cooperators. We must continue to reject excuses and justifications that make it acceptable to sell out your friends and become a pawn of cyber-imperialism. Before getting involved in hacking and direct action, you should be aware of and fully prepared for the worst case scenario if caught. But fear not, because we have a strong movement of lawyers and supporters who will have your back if you get jammed up. Sabu avoided a prison sentence, but the consequences of his actions will haunt him for the rest of his life. Not even halfway through my time, I would still rather be where I'm at: while they can take away your freedom temporarily, your honor lasts forever.

Most importantly, the government hopes these arrests will have disrupted Anonymous and deterred others from engaging in politically-motivated hacking. But Anonymous is a decentralized, leaderless movement, and reports of our death have been greatly exaggerated. CEOs and cops are still getting dox'd, websites are still being defaced, and stolen databases are still being plastered all over the internet.

<https://freejeremy.net/2015/01/22/jeremy-hammonds-statement-on-the-plea-and-sentencing-of-his-brother-jason-hammond/>

## Jeremy Hammond's statement on the plea and sentencing of his brother, Jason Hammond

*On January 22, 2015, Jason Hammond, Jeremy Hammond's twin brother, was sentenced to 41 months in prison after accepting a non-cooperating guilty plea for his role in a [militant direct action](#) directed at white supremacists in the suburb of Tinley Park.*

*We at the Jeremy Hammond Defense Committee completely and unequivocally support Jason Hammond and all who choose to participate in militant direct action for a free and equal society.*

---

I am heart-broken that my twin brother Jason Hammond will have to do years in prison for his participation in the 2012 attack on a white supremacist gathering in Tinley Park.

I love my brother. Anyone who has ever met him knows he is the most charming, caring and passionate guy around. You would often catch him at street protests playing the trombone in the marching band, cooking food for the homeless, or teaching guitar to children.

For some, it may come as a shock to think he could have been involved in an armed attack against neo-nazis. But it's a troubled world we live in – sometimes you pick up the trombone and picket sign, other times you gotta pick up the baseball bat and Molotov cocktail.

The prosecutors, police, and mayor of Tinley Park were so vindictive and eager to defend the nazis that despite already having sentenced the Tinley Park 5 to prison, they arrested my brother for the same action a year later. Setting a no-10% bail higher than Trayvon Martin's murderer George Zimmerman, they would not settle for anything less than years imprisonment.

At the same time, prosecutors intentionally threw the case during grand jury proceedings against the cops who killed Michael Brown and Eric Garner – police literally getting away with murder, again and again.

These are not isolated tragedies but more evidence of the inherently corrupt and racist nature of the prison industrial complex. The connections are obvious, from the police who armed the Klan for the Greensboro massacre, to the "New Jim Crow" of mandatory minimums, crack/cocaine sentencing disparities, and felony second-class citizen status. This system has no future for people of color and the impoverished: it's a lifetime of starvation-wage servitude, imprisonment, or death.

The protests “must be peaceful” says Obama and other so-called “community leader” sellouts and establishment apologists. It’s a sick irony to hear the “hope and change” president call for non-violence while he escalates U.S. imperialist wars in the middle east and refuses to prosecute CIA torturers and Bush Administration officials who signed off on it. His phony promises to “end racial profiling” and “demilitarize the police” should be rejected as attempts to channel our anger into predictable, controllable, and ultimately ineffective reforms, when what we need is abolition and revolution.

The system’s got to go, and we have to be prepared to use any and all tactics to overthrow it. Burning, looting, flipping over cop cars. hacking websites, and beating up nazis.

I fully support my brother and those who engage in militant direct action to build a more free and equal society. I urge everybody to check out my brother’s statement explaining his motivations for participating in the Tinley Park action. Like Jason says, “these tactics could also apply to different avenues of struggle, directed towards exploitative bosses, racist cops, gentrifying landlords, sexist institutions, and fascist politicians”.

Even though I am saddened it has resulted in his imprisonment, I am proud that he was willing to fight for his beliefs. We went to school together, played in bands together, protested together, and now both of us are incarcerated. We may be in different prisons, facing different charges, but we will always be together in the spirit of defiance. ***FREE JASON HAMMOND!***

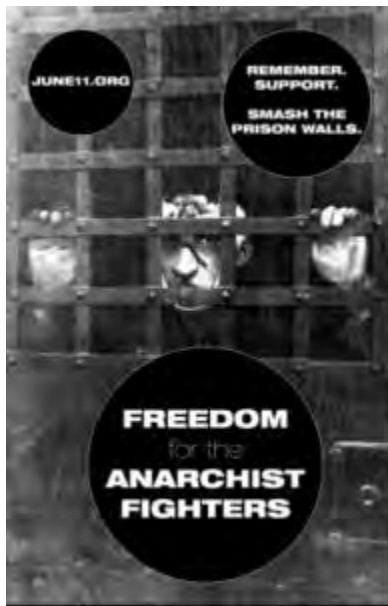


## STATEMENTS BY JEREMY HAMMOND

<https://freejeremy.net/2018/06/11/june-11-day-of-solidarity-with-long-term-anarchist-prisoners/>

## June 11 Day of Solidarity with Long-Term Anarchist Prisoners

*This message from Jeremy commemorates the 2018 June 11 Day of Solidarity with long-term anarchist prisoners. To find out more, including how to write many anarchist prisoners, please visit [June11.org](http://June11.org)*



Revolutionary greetings on this day of solidarity with Marius Mason and long-term anarchist prisoners!

A raised fist to all those behind bars who maintain their dignity in the face of a system that dehumanizes and exploits us! Our steadfast commitment to our collective vision of a free society is more resilient than any prison they've ever built; even after all their iron bars and concrete walls crumble to dust, we will remain standing strong together.

A raised fist to all those in the world writing letters, sending books, marching in the streets or putting in all-nighters! Your words and actions have a ripple effect that reaches even those of us the system has attempted to bury. You remind us that we are all part of something bigger than any of us individually: that when one of us falls, others will pick up where you left off, and the struggle continues.

Reflecting on this year's theme of sustainability and burnout, I consider how we can stay positively engaged despite the stresses and hardships of an oppressive society. Whether one is imprisoned, warehoused like cattle in the most minimal conditions allowed by law, or whether one lives in the so-called "free world" competing for survival in their financial rat race, we are

all struggling under an authoritarian power structure and an economic system we had no role in creating and which offers us no future. I can understand how, in the face of a seemingly overwhelming military force, headed by the most blatantly corrupt corporate fascist to date, the odds may seem against us, and as a result, some can become jaded or burnt out.

Not a day goes by that I don't say to myself that prison is fucking terrible and no one should have to live like this. Not for one second, however, do I regret my actions that have brought me here. Fully aware of the potential consequences of my illegal activities, I decided that it was better to risk everything to change an unjust society than to become comfortable within it's cage. We can't foresee every card that life deals, every betrayal or unfortunate circumstance; I've made mistakes and tactical blunders, and have taken some losses along the way, but I still believe in the power of direct action and hacktivism. The key to overcoming these challenges is staying focused and active, and constantly evolving oneself to confront new circumstances while staying true to our principles.

Possibly the greatest injustice as an imprisoned anarchist is the inability to participate in the movements that we were a part of. Often we would be completely unaware of how history is unfolding, if it weren't for the diligent efforts of the comrades out there who have kept us connected to our communities and informed of current news and analysis. Your work in this regard is much appreciated; knowing that people have our backs, gives us continued strength and inspiration. It brings a smile to my face every time I read a reportback or critical analysis, knowing that it is still going down out there. And as I complete the final stretch of my bid, I am preparing myself physically and mentally for my release, and look forward to joining you all.

See you in the streets!



<https://freejeremy.net/2019/06/11/june-11th-2019-solidarity-message/>

## June 11th 2019 Solidarity Message

A raised fist to you all this [June 11th](#)! May this letter find you in revolutionary health and spirits. Although I am unable to be with you physically on this occasion due to being held in captivity by the BOP, I still feel connected with you on this day of solidarity. It was nice to run the 5K with you a few days ago for Running Down The Walls. I also sent out a few dozen origami models decorated with June 11th anarchist tattoos; you should be receiving those shortly.

Big ups to the other anarchist comrades behind bars. We have been through a lot of trials and tribulations over the years: harassment from abusive guards, solitary confinement, diesel therapy, the mind-numbing frustrations from battling the brutal bureaucracy for so many years. Never have we been alone, however. Despite every effort the system has made to cut us off from our friends and loved ones, from disconnecting us from the rotations of the Earth, we have still been able to stay connected to the movement. The letters, the books, the messages of encouragement – by undermining the punitive, isolating deterrent effect of the prison system, we are strengthened to keep struggling through the storm.

For all this, I want to express my appreciation for the Anarchist Black Cross chapters, the Books to Prisoners groups, the Friends of AK Press book club, those who sent in their personal zines: your work has an immeasurable positive effect on our lives behind bars. Know that every prison library we've passed through is saturated with radical literature, ready for the next curious soul looking for something interesting to check out. Also inspiring are the various solidarity actions, hearing that people are still out there taking direct action to destroy the old world and manifest new ones. Where we are, we often aren't in the best position to be hacking and smashing things ourselves, but we can still rest easy knowing that things are still being hacked and smashed.

This June 11th also falls on the yearly "Officer Appreciation Week" (a separate event from the National Police Week last month). Across the federal prison system, we are locked down in our cells during the day while the pigs feast on fancy food from the free world, throw basketball tournaments, and give each other cheap awards manufactured by prisoners. They clap each other on the back when all the while their brethren continue to get away with murdering innocent people in the streets. It's hard to imagine what sickeningly nationalistic sociopath could support such a week – but then again, this is the United States, headed by a fascist pig that pardons racist police and war criminals!

Watching the sky fucking fall from afar, it is sometimes frustrating not being able to do much about it. I'm often asked was all worth it, and how I have kept from being burnt out. Though I have regrets about not carrying out my actions with complete precision, I have never once regretted my involvement in the anarchist movement or committing the specific Anonymous activities that have led to my incarceration. My only regret is that I didn't carry out my actions with complete precision, and that I was caught too early before I could complete many other half-finished plans!

Reflecting on this year's theme of combating amnesia, drawing inspiration, and looking to previous generations, I thought about some things I recently read in Nelson Mandela's autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*. On multiple occasions, the authorities offered him release from prison if he would only renounce his actions and condemn the use of violence. Each and every time, he refused to turn his back against his comrades! There is no greater integrity than those who have been tested and stayed true, keeping their heads up high for so, so long. Having developed an appreciation for the immense gravity and preciousness of time, I want to express my deepest respects for you all serving long-term sentences, and commit myself to work towards your immediate and unconditional release.

Until the last prisoner is freed and the last prison burned to the ground!  
Jeremy (A)



<https://www.sparrowmedia.net/2019/10/jeremy-hammond-issues-statement-explaining-why-he-is-resisting-the-edvas-grand-jury/>

### **Jeremy Hammond Issues Statement Explaining Why He is Resisting the Grand Jury**

“As many of you know, I was just a few months from my scheduled release from federal prison when I was unexpectedly dragged in chains and planes to this raggedy detention center in Alexandria, Virginia. I am outraged that the government is threatening additional jail time if I do not cooperate with their grand jury investigation. Their draconian intimidation tactics could never coerce me into betraying my comrades or my principles. In the spirit of resistance and with great contempt for their system, I am choosing silence over freedom.

“I am fully prepared for the consequences of my decision just as I had been each and every time I was faced with similar choices before. Long ago when I realized that government and capitalism were too hopelessly corrupt and unjust to be reformed through legal or electoral means, I chose to engage in civil disobedience and direct action. I knew then that my actions could land me behind bars, yet I fought on anyway; after a dozen arrests and even a prior federal prison sentence for hacking, I chose once again to use my computer skills to attack the systems of the rich and powerful as part of the Anonymous federal case I am doing time for today.

“When I pled guilty, I took responsibility for my actions and my actions alone. I never agreed to be debriefed or testify in any way, unlike the government’s informant Hector Monsegur, aka Sabu, whose reward was one year of probation while I received the maximum sentence allowable by law. It was a painful choice, but ten years in their dungeons was the price I was willing to pay so I could maintain my integrity. I have never regretted my choices the entire time I have been incarcerated, and having seen and experienced first-hand the abuses and inherent injustice of the prison industrial complex, my commitment to revolution and abolition has only become more deeply entrenched.

“Now, after seven and a half years of ‘paying my debt to society,’ the government seeks to punish me further with this vindictive, politically-motivated legal maneuver to delay my release, knowing full well that I would never cooperate with their witch hunt. I am opposed to all grand juries, but I am opposed to this one in particular because [REDACTED]. I am insulted that those in power claim that I have an ‘obligation that every citizen owes his government’ to testify. As an anarchist, I am not part of their social contract, and do not recognize the legitimacy of their laws and courts. Instead, I believe in a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quote I had taped to the wall of my prison cell for years: ‘One has an obligation to disobey unjust laws.’

“It is difficult to view any of this government’s laws as just when they are so selectively enforced, and when the government turns a blind eye to its own misconduct, misconduct that is on display every day that Trump is in the White House. In my case, the government, through its informant, Sabu, instigated

numerous hacks, asking me to break into governments and companies all over the world. Nearly a decade later, this misconduct remains ignored. The NSA continues to surveil everyone and launch cyber attacks. Trump and his corrupt cronies continue to hold the world hostage to their megalomaniacal imperialist pig whims while simultaneously refusing to comply with subpoenas and inquiries into their vicious abuses of power. Meanwhile, Chelsea Manning and I are doing hard time in this dump for the 'crime' of refusing to allow our spirits to break, after 'serving' our sentences for exposing government and corporate corruption.

"This absurd hypocrisy and desperate ruthlessness reveals a crumbling legal system, a system that has robbed me of the majority of my adult life but could never take my humanity. I will continue to do the right thing, no matter how long it takes. I know how to do time, and I will never be intimidated by their threats. Ever!! I refuse!!"

## Tweets by Jeremy Hammond

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/1116329522754928641?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

“Deeply upset & angered to hear that Chelsea Manning was locked up for the ‘crime’ of refusing to compromise her principles by cooperating with a Grand Jury. Her courage continues to inspire those of us behind bars & in the free world. [#FreeChelsea](#)” - Jeremy Hammond [#JeremyIn140](#)

### How to Write to Chelsea

**Address**

**Chelsea Elizabeth Manning**  
**A0181426**  
**William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center**  
**2001 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314**

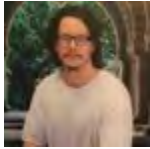
Prisons impose repressive, arbitrary regulations on what prisoners may receive from the outside world and Truesdale Detention Center is no different. Follow the guide below when sending mail:

Do	Do Not
✓ Address your letter exactly as shown above	✗ Send cards, packages, postcards, photocopies or cash
✓ Send letters on white paper.	✗ Decorate the outside of the envelope
✓ Use the mail service to send letters.	✗ Send books or magazines
✓ Include color drawings in your letters.	
✓ Sparingly send 4x6 photos, as she may only keep 10 at a time	

**Chelsea**  
resists

9:17 AM · Apr 11, 2019

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/428913908498583552?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)

[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

"Yeah!

[@JerryResists](#)

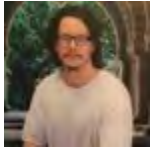
released victoriously from MCC after refusing to cooperate w/ grand jury witch hunts.

PULLUPS in 9-NORTH!" [#Jeremyin140](#)

10:33 AM · Jan 30, 2014



<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/1116873343570010113?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Chelsea Manning, the brave women who have come forward with their stories of assault, & countless political prisoners suffering daily need our support. Extradition & imprisonment for Julian Assange is wrong, but we can certainly chose who we throw our weight behind.

[#JeremyIn140](#)

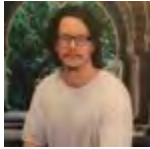
**"Assange's prosecution must be opposed because it has major implications for free speech and the US's self-entitled right to bully other nations into giving up people who have never even set foot here to face trumped-up conspiracy charges and long prison sentences. But there are plenty of other comrades behind bars who have shown political integrity and loyalty to the movement. (Free Chelsea Manning!) Perhaps we should focus our support on them instead of a sexist white supremacist who helped Trump win the election."**

**Jeremy Hammond**

**#JeremyIn140 . FreeJeremy.net . #FreeJeremy**

9:18 PM · Apr 12, 2019

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/1031925306448400384?s=21>



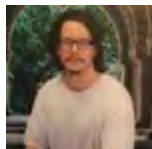
[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

“Support Incarcerated Workers on strike nationwide! [#IWOC](#) [#FreeThemAll](#)” - Jeremy Hammond [#FreeJeremy](#) [#JeremyIn140](#) [#prisonstrike](#) [#NatTurnerDay](#) [#NationalPrisonStrike](#) [#August21](#) Info and demands: <http://sawarimi.org/national-prison-strike>  
Demos: <https://itsgoingdown.org/prisonstrike/>



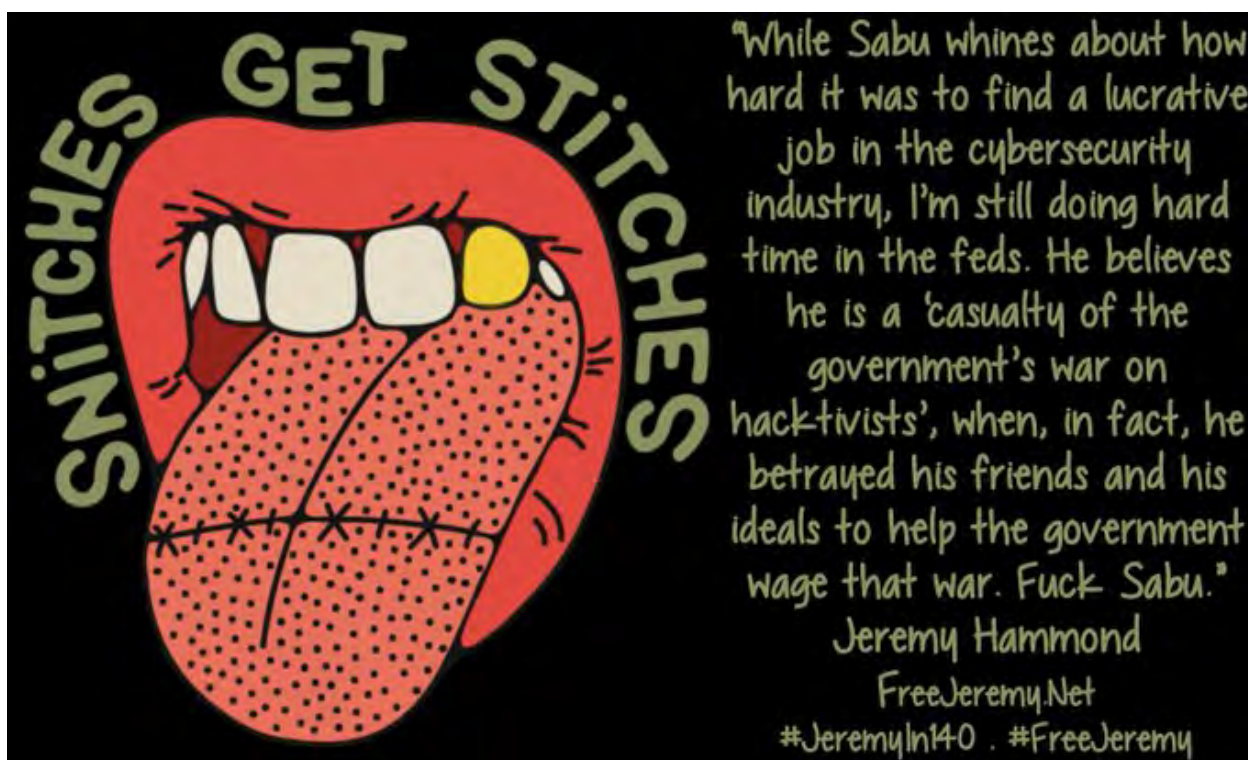
11:25 AM · Aug 21, 2018

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/987385465652342796?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Fuck Sabu. [#SnitchesGetStitches](#) [#FreeJeremy](#) [#JeremyIn140](#)  
Translate Tweet



1:40 PM · Apr 20, 2018



<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/935524023336914944?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)

[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

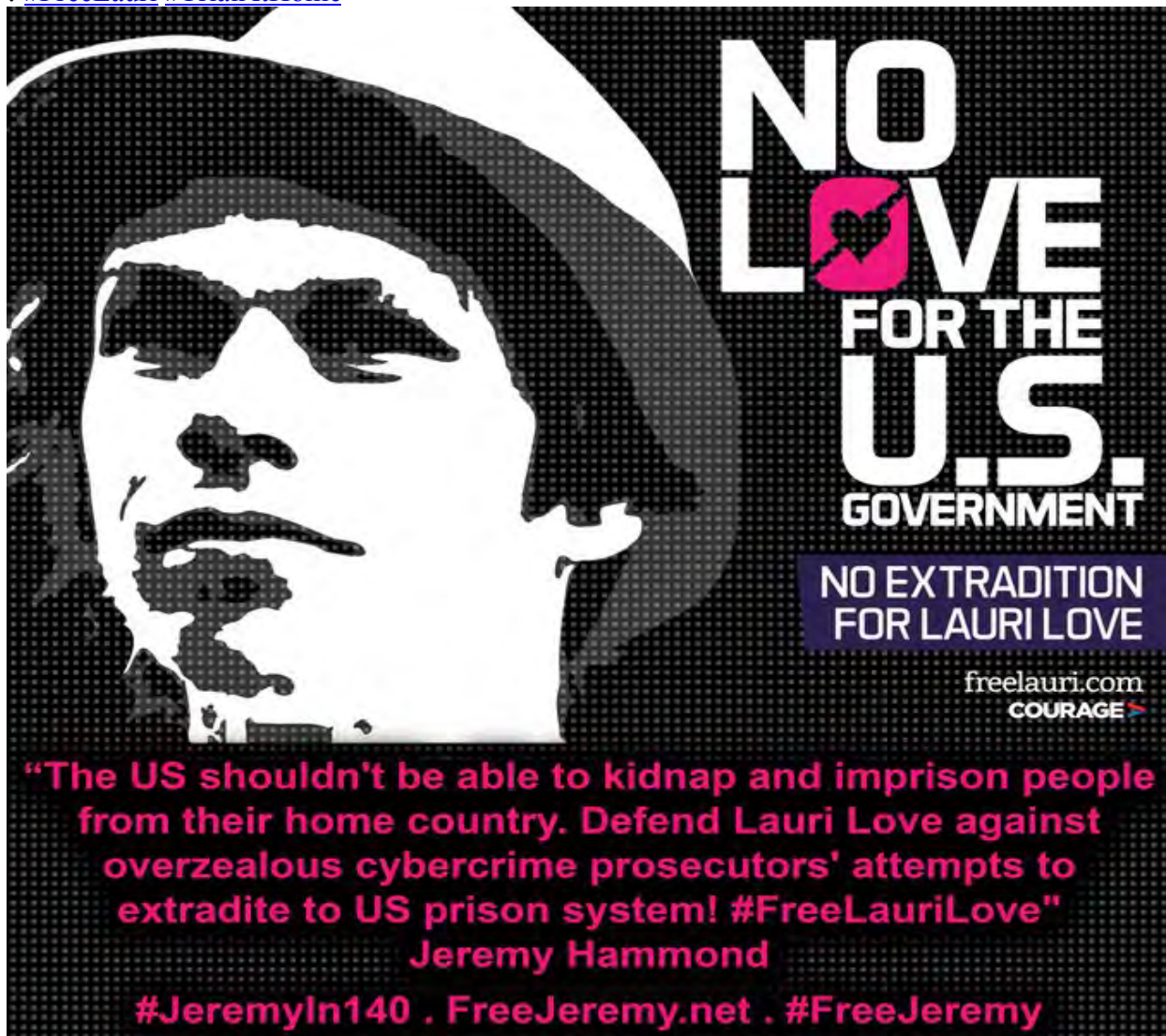
This [#JeremyIn140](#) was originally written almost 2 years ago, but it still holds true. The US government should not have the right to kidnap and torture innocent people. Support

[@laurilove](#)

and

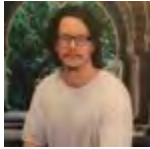
[@NoLove4USGov](#)

! [#FreeLauri](#) [#TrialAtHome](#)



10:01 AM · Nov 28, 2017

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/880093938966769664?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Support [#J20](#) defendants! <http://resistthis.org/j20solidarity/> If you have other support links, please reply here for a boost! [#FreeJeremy](#) [#JeremyIn140](#)

**THE BULLETS THEIR COPS FIRE AT MY COMMUNITY ARE MY PROTEST PERMIT**

**THE ANTI-LGBTQ ATTACKS ON MYSELF AND MY FRIENDS ARE MY PROTEST PERMIT**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**STONEWALL MEANS FIGHT BACK! SMASH GAY OPPRESSION!**

**J20RESIST.ORG**

**MY LOW PAY, STOLEN WAGES, AND DANGEROUS WORKING CONDITIONS ARE MY PROTEST PERMIT**

**THE BOMBS THAT RAIN DOWN ON MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN PEOPLES ARE MY PROTEST PERMIT**

**FIGHT FOR LUCHA POR 15**

**J20RESIST.ORG**

**J20RESIST.ORG**

**“Support those facing serious charges for #J20 actions and everyone arrested at anti-Trump protests around the world!”**

**Jeremy Hammond**

**#JeremyIn140 . #FreeJeremy**

**FreeJeremy.Net**

12:02 PM · Jun 28, 2017

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/836622496208158720?s=21>

[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)

[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Dear

[@Snowden](#)

and

[@JulianAssange](#)

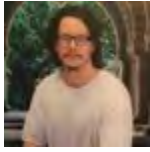
: Trust Jeremy on this one. Please. [#JeremyIn140](#) [#FreeJeremy](#)



12:02 PM · Feb 28, 2017



<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/829737128372350976?s=21>



Jeremy Hammond Support Committee  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Support our troops! [#poLivesMatter](#)



[#JeremyIn140](#) [#FreeJeremy](#)



*"Don't forget about jail and court support for those who were arrested at Black Lives Matter and anti-Trump rallies!"*

*Jeremy Hammond*

**#JeremyIn140 . FreeJeremy.Net . #FreeJeremy**

12:02 PM · Feb 9, 2017



<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/798646161498218496?s=21>

[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Dear

[@AmberRudd\\_MP](#)

: Keep your filthy fucking hands off our comrade [#LauriLove](#) <http://dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3935460/Home-Secretary-Amber-Rudd-orders-British-computer-hacker-Lauri-Love-extradited-America-allegations-stole-data-NASA-Army.html>  
[#FreeLauri](#) [#JeremyIn140](#) [#HandsOffLauri](#)



4:57 PM · Nov 15, 2016

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/758806066838638593?s=21>

[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Thanks to all the orgs supporting the national prison strikes!

<http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2016/06/15/3788178/prison-labor-strikes/>  
[#solidarity](#) [#JeremyIn140](#)



**“PROPS TO THOSE ON  
THE INS AND OUTS  
SUPPORTING THE  
NATIONWIDE PRISON  
STRIKES. IWOC, PAPS,  
AND ABC DOING THEIR  
THING. <3”**

**JEREMY HAMMOND**

**#JEREMYIN140  
FREEJEREMY.NET  
#FREEJEREMY**

7:27 PM · Jul 28, 2016

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/748550523188555776?s=21>

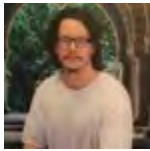
[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Snitch Brandon Darby is still at it. Don't trust him or anyone who associates with him.  
[#JeremyIn140](#) [#FreeJeremy](#)



12:15 PM · Jun 30, 2016

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/735501184006389760?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Info, Alabama:

[http://democracynow.org/2016/5/13/alabama\\_prison\\_strike\\_organizer\\_speaks\\_from](http://democracynow.org/2016/5/13/alabama_prison_strike_organizer_speaks_from)

Info, Texas: <https://theintercept.com/2016/04/04/prisoners-in-multiple-states-call-for-strikes-to-protest-forced-labor/>

[#JeremyIn140](#) [#FreeJeremy](#) [#solidarity](#)



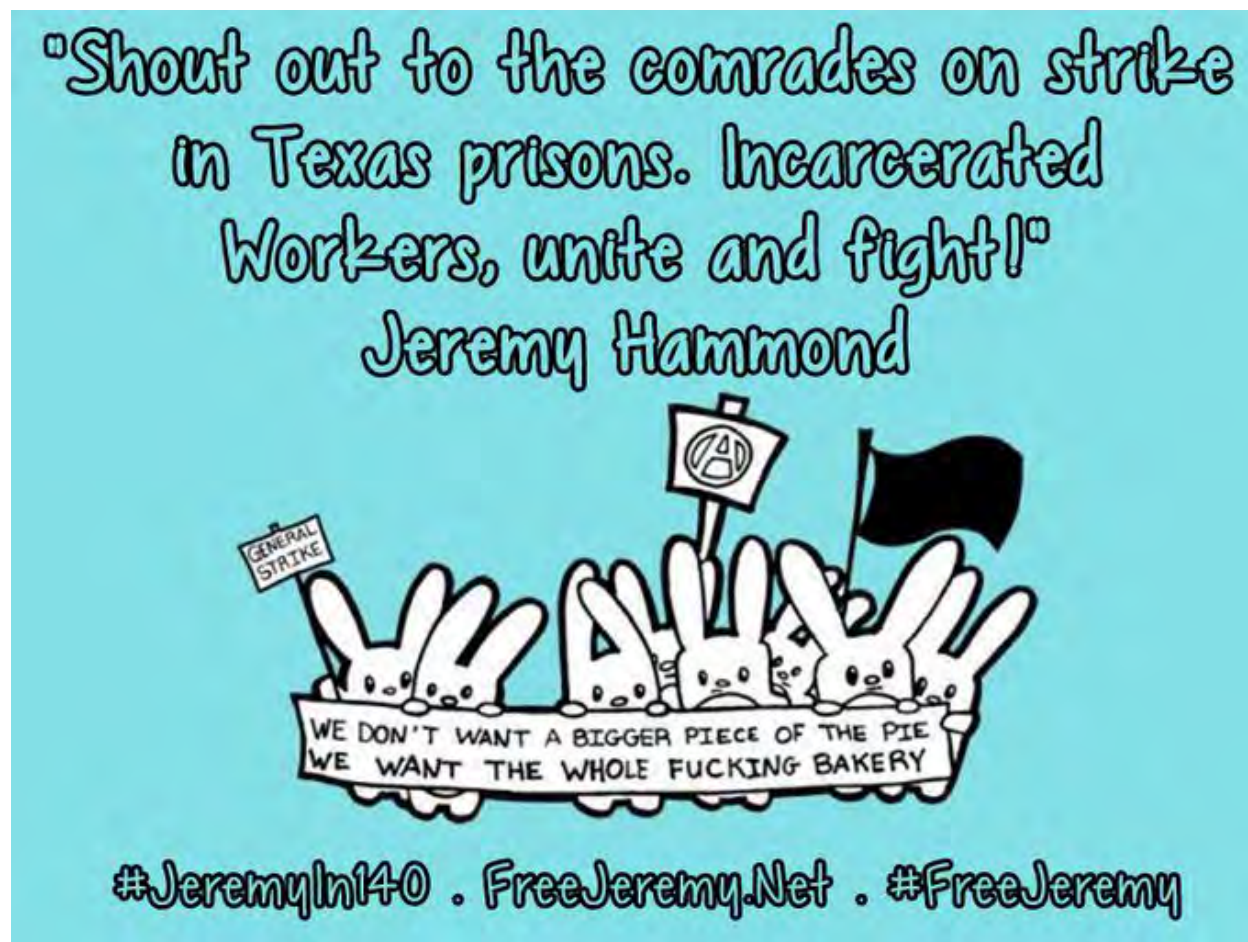
12:02 PM · May 25, 2016



<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/727166283901341696?s=21>

[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

#Solidarity with striking incarcerated workers! #IWOC #JeremyIn140 #FreeJeremy Background:  
<http://austinchronicle.com/daily/news/2016-04-06/texas-inmates-strike-for-better-conditions/>



12:02 PM · May 2, 2016

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/680070946279952389?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

Solidarity to [#BlackLivesMatter](#)



and [#BlackXmas2](#) activists from [#JeremyHammond](#). [#FreeJeremy](#) [#JeremyIn140](#)



"Don't forget our comrades arrested at all the [#BlackLivesMatter](#) protests - ongoing jail and court support are needed to fight these charges."

Jeremy Hammond

[FreeJeremy.net](#)  
[#FreeJeremy](#) · [#JeremyIn140](#)

12:02 PM · Dec 24, 2015

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/556194277727166465?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

"Props to comrade

[@APT1337](#)

for speaking out against Sabu. Fuck that rat bastard! <http://pastebin.com/raw.php?i=fSdTyJSw>

" [#JeremyIn140](#)

4:00 PM · Jan 16, 2015

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/546041303700873217?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

"Prosecutors threw the case. Ask any prisoner or lawyer, when does grand jury EVER not indict?  
When it's a killer cop!" [#JeremyIn140](#) [#POLtwit](#)

3:36 PM · Dec 19, 2014

<https://twitter.com/freejeremynet/status/441751573191229440?s=21>



[Jeremy Hammond Support Committee](#)  
[@FreeJeremyNet](#)

"Props to [#LauriLove](#) for refusing to hand over encryption keys! Stay strong, keep fighting.  
[#FreeAnons](#) [#FreeLove](#)" [#JeremyIn140](#)

8:45 PM · Mar 6, 2014



Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

January 24, 2020

Dear Judge Trenga,

My name is Robert Boyle, I am a business owner, writer, and publisher. I have been friends with Jeremy Hammond for approximately 15 years and during that time have worked closely with him on various activist projects. Due to those shared organizing experiences, I am convinced that Jeremy holds himself to a strict ethical code based on his firmly-held social justice beliefs.

I am writing to you today because there is no doubt in my mind that Jeremy cannot be compelled to testify against others, even with the threat of additional jail time. I have had many political discussions with Jeremy, both personal and in larger meetings, during which his commitment to opposing oppression and practicing principles of mutual aid and solidarity has been abundantly clear. Jeremy is motivated by the belief that the system of capitalism in which we live under is inherently oppressive. He has held these beliefs since he was young, since before I knew him, and will most likely hold them the rest of his life. Though the court may disagree, he undoubtedly believes that the actions he took that resulted in his incarceration were justified. In alignment with these steadfast convictions, he would absolutely consider it a violation of his personal principles to testify against others. This has already been born out with his refusal to provide statements or evidence against others during his original trial. He has already proven that he is willing to accept a longer prison term rather than cooperate with the state against other activists. This selflessness has been a defining aspect of his activist work, from feeding the homeless to computer trainings to protesting unjust wars.

Given Jeremy's unwavering personal ethics, it is entirely clear to me that any additional jail time that is inflicted upon him for refusing to testify would be utterly punitive. He is already serving time for his beliefs, and to extend that time would only serve to punish him further. It will not serve the court's interests. I firmly believe that he cannot be compelled to testify against others. Please release him from the grand jury and allow him to serve the rest of his time peacefully.

Sincerely,

Robert Boyle  
[REDACTED]

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

February 27, 2020

Dear Judge Trenga:

I'm writing to you today about Jeremy Hammond's case, and to explain that his continued detention is purely punitive with no hope of coercing him into testifying. My name is Emma Best, a transparency activist, journalist and former analyst and hacker. I'm the co-founder of Distributed Denial of Secrets, an internationally recognized transparency collective dedicated to publishing leaked and hacked information of public interest, where one of my primary roles is receiving submissions and interacting with sources. In my role as a journalist, I've also become quite familiar with Jeremy Hammond's case, having reviewed the sealed file – which was leaked to me by a third party – and have written about it, breaking several stories involving Jeremy, [REDACTED] which have been referenced by reputable news outlets in several countries.

I'm writing to share my belief, based on experience with Jeremy's case and with people like him, that Jeremy will not be compelled to testify, irregardless of any resulting penalties. I've worked with and studied a number of idealists and sources similar to Jeremy, and have read countless words he wrote in private, candid chats as recounted in logs seized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and later leaked to me. Jeremy's principles led him to make a non-cooperating plea agreement, in which he not only accepted responsibility for his actions but their consequences – while refusing to cooperate with the government despite the potential for a more lenient sentence.

Since he made that plea deal, I've followed his written statements closely. These public statements make it clear that nothing has changed the strength of his convictions or his determination to continue to follow them. His words now are the same ones he used in private chats with numerous individuals prior to his arrest, all of which have indicated he is someone who is dedicated to his beliefs and imminently ready to sacrifice himself for them. In my former role as an analyst and my current role as a handler for sources, assessment of a source's intentions, determination and stability has been part of my job. All of my experience tells me that Jeremy will not change his mind, and will stand by the anarchist principles which drove him to activism and to his non-cooperating plea agreement.

If the court decides to keep Jeremy in prison, it will not find the satisfaction it seeks. The imprisonment, which in this instance is meant to only be used coercively, is doomed to fail. The court will only succeed in punishing a man by keeping him jailed – at great cost to the government (and thus the tax payers). Simply put, doing so won't serve any reasonable person's conception of justice.



Emma Best (Em)

Distributed Denial of Secrets

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

29 February 2020

Dear Judge Trenga:

My name is Bria Murray, and for the past six and a half years, I have been the head of the Jeremy Hammond Support Committee. Jeremy and I were friends prior to his arrest, and, in 2013, he asked me to take over the public face of his support committee. Since his arrest, I have not only maintained a close relationship with Jeremy, speaking with him frequently through email, phone, and letters, but I have had the privilege of speaking internationally about Jeremy and his case.

As you are probably aware, as part of my duty as head of his support committee, I frequently post both tweets and long-form written pieces Jeremy has written on his behalf to both his website and his various social media accounts, including Twitter and Facebook. He sends these to me personally through either email or letters, with the understanding that they are for me to post for the public to read. These tweets and written pieces give the public a way to not only connect with Jeremy, but they also frequently discuss his personal and political beliefs.

One of the things that has been consistent through the years that I have known Jeremy is his unwavering commitment to his personal and political anarchist beliefs. If anything, his time in the prison system has strengthened his commitment to his beliefs. There has been an extensive precedent of releasing grand jury resisters with "no possibility of compliance" and I can tell you with absolute certainty that this standard applies to Jeremy. One of the core tenets of anarchism is a steadfast refusal to cooperate with the state and a staunch belief in prison abolition. As an anarchist myself, and as someone who knows Jeremy better than almost anyone, I can confidently say that Jeremy will never betray those ideals. After taking a non-cooperating plea deal, ensuring he would not have to talk to or cooperate with the state, he has since served over seven years in federal prison for actions taken in defense of his political beliefs and remains as entrenched, defiant, and uncompromising as ever. If a grand jury is meant to coerce a potential witness into testifying, then there is no point in keeping Mr. Hammond any further, as he will never testify. To anyone who knows, Jeremy, it is clear that nothing will move him. He will remain strong and silent no matter the personal cost.

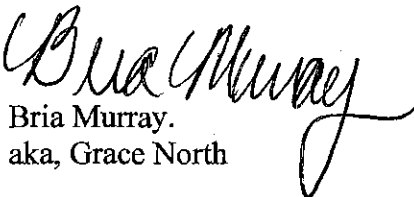
As he stated after he was originally placed in contempt, "Their draconian intimidation tactics could never coerce me into betraying my comrades or my principles. In the spirit of resistance and with great contempt for their system, I am choosing silence over freedom...I have never regretted my choices the entire time I have been incarcerated, and having seen and experienced first-hand the abuses and inherent injustice of the prison industrial complex, my commitment to revolution and abolition has only become more deeply entrenched." These words show a powerful resolve, one which will not be weakened by further incarceration.

Because of this resolve, I am asking you to please release Jeremy from his contempt. By the very act of calling him front of this grand jury, it prevented him from completing the Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) at FCI Memphis, the federal facility he was being housed at prior to his incarceration in Alexandria. Had he been allowed to complete his time in RDAP, he would have been eligible for early release to a halfway house on December 12, 2019, where he would have been able to begin rebuilding his life and reconnecting with the friends, family, and community that loves and misses him so much. However, because he did not complete this program, he his early release was taken away, and he will have the time he would have been granted to him by virtue of completing RDAP added back on to his sentence.

Please do not continue to punish Jeremy further for adhering to his sincerely held personal and political beliefs. I cannot overstate Jeremy's unwillingness to be moved. If all of my history with him were not enough to convince me, he has stated to me multiple times that he has no intention of testifying in front of this – or any other – grand jury. And I believe him. With everything in me. I believe him. The court will not gain any knowledge and will not benefit in any way from Mr. Hammond's continued incarceration. If the true purpose of confining grand jury resisters is to coerce, but not punish, I can tell you with absolute certainty that Jeremy will never be coerced, and must therefore be released.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Bria Murray.  
aka, Grace North

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Judge Trenga,

My name is Jason Hammond, and I am Jeremy Hammond's twin brother. Nobody knows Jeremy better than I, as we have lived together our entire lives except for his prison time, where we remain close with phone calls, letters, and visits. But we are more than just brothers; we are comrades, as we are both principled anarchists who have been engaging in political activism for our entire adult lives, which amounts to almost two decades. I am writing to you to tell you about why holding Jeremy in contempt for refusing to speak to a Grand Jury is punitive and ineffectual, thus demonstrating how there is no legal basis for his continual incarceration at Alexandria, Virginia.

As mentioned, we have both been involved in political activism for our entire adult lives, which started off as mobilization in opposition to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This opened the doors for us to learning about other movements, such as feminism, anti-racism, worker, immigrant and LGBTQ+ rights. We began protesting. Entering these struggles, we quickly became aware of how when we organized, the police and prisons repressed the movement for liberation and equality. We began challenging police brutality, mass incarceration, and the racism inherent within the system of capitalism. Whether you agree with us or not, we viewed the function of police as oppressive and our opposition; those that worked against our vision of a free society and are not to be trusted.

As we became more active, we began participating in civil disobedience, which is the practice of voluntary arrest in order to highlight an issue or to challenge an unfair law. In fact, we have both been arrested about 20 times for activism related to our political beliefs. Every time, the police attempt to question us about our movement, who else we were organizing with, if we would aid with their investigations in other activists who may be planning on

breaking laws, and this was in exchange for a lighter sentence or charge for ourselves. And every single time we refused to speak, not just because we would never want to subject our comrades to the harms of the police state, but we would never betray our friends and the movement for our own personal benefit. As you may have heard, snitching goes against the core values of the movement, and we have always maintained our 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> amendment right under the constitution to remain silent.

Jeremy has personal experiences related to snitching, as twice he has been on the receiving end of informants in the movement. When he was twenty, he was sentenced to his first felony was for hacking a racist right-wing website. Jeremy and another hacker took down the website for Protest Warrior, which engaged in harassment both online and in real life of unsuspecting protesters, but the other hacker who worked with him was arrested and cooperated with the police in order to bring charges to Jeremy in order to reduce his own sentence. Jeremy did over a year in prison, which further solidified his resolve to never cooperate with the police, as he would never wish prison time upon anyone.

But the most salient demonstration of Jeremy's disregard for police collaboration is the very case in for which he is now incarcerated; an informant working with the FBI literally provided Jeremy with the information needed to do the Stratfor hack in order to save his own skin. The informant, Hector Monseguir, received time served for his own computer fraud charges by becoming a snitch and working with the FBI to encourage other hackers to commit illegal acts in order to entrap members of the well-known hacker group Anonymous in which he was a member of. Jeremy and 5 others were arrested, and Jeremy received the maximum sentence of 10 years.

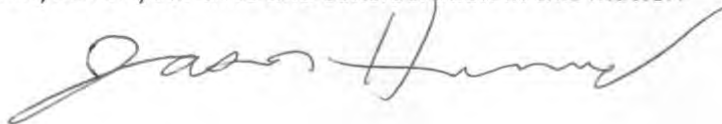
During the last 8 years of his incarceration, he has written and published extensively about his decision in refusing to cooperate with authorities, about how he views the government as possessing illegitimate sovereignty over people and their communities, and how to U.S. causes great harm with pointless and racist wars and a prison system that strips people of their humanity, and how the government protects an exploitative capitalism which robs people of their dignity and morality. He has always held steadfast in his beliefs and motivations

for hacking the private security industry which led to his arrest and incarceration. This is all well-documented in court transcripts for Jeremy's case and the government is well aware of his history, views and political resolve. And now it comes as a horrible irony that he is receiving additional prison time for being held in contempt of a court that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cooperating with the grand jury is something Jeremy will never do, and federal investigators know this, as they have records of decades of verbal and written documentation of his demonstrated opposition to the systems of law and order. As he has himself suffered at the hands of the state because of a snitch, he is the last person who would ever collaborate with the feds, which could effectively bring another person into the harmful maws of the U.S. prison system. For this reason, the logic of holding him in contempt and freezing his sentence in order to coerce him into speaking *will never work*, and is merely serving as further punishment for the charges in which he was already convicted of and sentenced to by order of Judge Loretta A. Preska. He was expected to have been released early last December, in 2019, as he would have received time off his sentence for participating the RDAP rehabilitation program. But his contract was interrupted when he was transferred to Alexandria, which effectively added another year to his sentence in addition to the time in which he is now serving. I ask that you release Jeremy immediately from contempt and return the 5 months he has served for the duration of the grand jury for maintaining his 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> amendment rights to remain silent.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Hammond", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jason Hammond



**MARGARET RATNER KUNSTLER**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

212.924.7025 (O) • 347.402.2014 (F) [MARGARET@KUNSTLERLAW.NET](mailto:MARGARET@KUNSTLERLAW.NET)

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 9, 2020

Dear Judge Trenga:

I am a criminal and civil rights attorney that was admitted to the bar in 1970. I was one of the lawyers who represented Jeremy Hammond against charges filed in the Southern District of New York where he ultimately pleaded guilty to a CFAA violation. Over the nearly two years he was at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, I spent many hours with him and spoke and corresponded with many people from Chicago who knew him before he was arrested. I know him well.

I can tell you with certainty he is a man of his word and one who would sacrifice his life rather than violate a principle he lived by. This absolute rigidity is only equaled by his tenderness and generosity. The hundreds of letters sent to the court requesting leniency in his sentencing were full of personal stories describing how the writer was helped by Jeremy and how his selflessness was an event or a series of them that stood out in their lives as a rare example of human kindness that would never be forgotten.

I found a Jeremy to be kind at the same time that he stood absolutely firmly behind what he considered the way a human being as a member of a community should behave. He actively opposed racism and sexism and all forms of prejudice and believed in sharing whatever material goods he possessed. These are precepts upon which his self-respect is based and for which he gained the respect of his neighbor and community.

I believe there is nothing that would convince him to stand in front of a grand jury and give testimony about another person. His incarceration is now and has been from the start a punishment for his standing up for his beliefs. He could never be coerced into doing something that violated one of them.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Margaret Ratner Kunstler

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**5th of February, 2020**

Dear Judge Trenga,

My name is Jake Davis. I was arrested and convicted for involvement in the Anonymous and LulzSec hacking groups during 2011. I was sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment in the United Kingdom and given a 5 year Serious Crime Prevention Order, which has now expired.

Given my past experiences, I am familiar with essentially all of the world's most prominent hacker cases, and it is my belief that, out of every hacker/activist I've encountered, Jeremy Hammond is by far the least likely to give evidence. I am certain of this as an absolute fact from first-hand experience. Any attempts to coerce or intimate him will fail, therefore his continued imprisonment is utterly pointless. He is a person of principle, discipline, and sheer willpower, and will never concede to the demands currently forced upon him.

Keeping Jeremy behind bars is also a deeply counter-intuitive move. He is a brilliant and skilled individual, and as we move more into an era of rapidly evolving cyber threat, the world needs Jeremy as an expert and voice of reason for the many. By stopping him from interacting with society, the U.S. government is ironically making society less secure.

Every other affiliate of Jeremy related to this case is now free and working professionally, applying their talent throughout the world, advising and setting up honest, ethical companies, and making the average person much safer in the digital landscape through research, education, and awareness. Jeremy needs and deserves the same opportunity.

With all of this in mind, attempting to lengthen his incarceration is not only malicious, it's fundamentally illogical - he will never yield to cooperation, and his brilliant talents are being aggressively and knowingly hindered by a prosecution that seems now to be fuelled by embittered revenge rather than a desire for justice. Everyone involved is fully aware that Jeremy will never cooperate, and yet somehow this situation is allowed to continue. Please put an end to it.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Davis". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

Elisa Y. Lee



Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 7, 2020

Re: In re Grand Jury Subpoena John Doe 2010R03793, No. 19-dm-00050-AJT

Dear Judge Trenga:

My name is Elisa Lee. I am an attorney based in New York City and a close friend of Jeremy Hammond, who I have known for more than 14 years. I write to you today because there is no question in my mind that keeping Jeremy confined at the Alexandria Detention Center, with his federal prison sentence paused, is only and purely punitive, as there is no possibility or likelihood whatsoever that Jeremy will be coerced from his position of silence. I say this based on my close personal knowledge of Jeremy's reasoning behind his refusal to testify, his mental stamina, his consistency of character over the decade and a half that I have known him, and the deeply-held belief system by which he has led his entire adult life. Indeed, Jeremy has spent the majority of his adult life incarcerated—nearly a decade behind bars—for politically-motivated actions that he felt impelled to take in line with his anarchist and antifascist beliefs, the same beliefs that now undergird his refusal to testify in this grand jury. He has adamantly refused to cooperate or collaborate with the government in each of his prior cases (which includes not just the two that resulted in federal prison sentences, but the long string of arrests he has endured in his very politically active life). To expect him to change his mind and agree to testify before a grand jury—which is understood by anarchists like him the world over, in no uncertain terms, as a particularly egregious form of government cooperation—is to expect him to take a course of action completely at odds with how he has always conducted himself in similar situations, and the principles that have been the driving force of his entire adult life.

I have visited Jeremy in prison every year except one over the past five years, and maintained regular communication with him to the present day. But the focus of my letter to you today will be the Jeremy I knew when I first met him many years ago, before he ever stepped foot in a prison, because it is key to understanding the strength of his character and the longevity of his dedication to causes that are the very reason he finds himself before you today.

When I first met Jeremy, at the end of 2005, he was 20 years old and had just been arrested for joining other antiracists and antifascists in protesting a neo-Nazi rally in Toledo, Ohio. In fact, for that incident Jeremy was charged with contempt of court for violating a court order that had placed restrictions

on protesting the Nazis. As someone whose earliest childhood memories involve being harassed by white supremacists and neo-Nazis in the California desert, I was impressed that Jeremy, a young white man, was willing to risk his own safety and liberty to oppose racism and fascism in the streets at a time when it was not a popular or by any means mainstream thing to do (and certainly did not reach the level of national discussion and engagement the way it has in recent years). Jeremy became my roommate shortly after I met him, and I quickly came to learn that the Toledo incident was not just a one-off or occasional type of activity for Jeremy. Political activism—particularly the kind that comes with risks—consumed his life as though it provided his lungs oxygen and his bones marrow, and this has not changed about him between the Jeremy I knew then and the Jeremy I know now.

Though only 20 years old, when I first met him, Jeremy was already well known in activist circles in Chicago and beyond. Just a few months prior, in August 2005, the *Chicago Reader* had published a story on Jeremy that discussed the potential federal case against him for hacking the website of Protest Warrior, a right-wing group that was known for disrupting anti-war protests with its pro-war messages. The *Chicago Reader* article noted, among other things, that Jeremy was refusing to cooperate with the government. Not even old enough to drink and threatened with the overwhelming weight of the federal criminal legal system, he nevertheless did not waver in his stance against cooperation with the government. And 15 years and two prison sentences later, he still will not waver. There is absolutely no reason to expect him to do so now.

Living under the threat of government persecution has never stopped Jeremy from continuing to hold true to himself and remain politically active, whether he is free or in prison. While potential federal charges loomed over him as a young man in 2006, long before I stepped foot in a law school, I marched with Jeremy in the historic, massive immigrants' rights march on May Day, and rode alongside him at "Critical Mass" bicycle rides that were known to end at times with police brutality and arbitrary arrests. Being true to himself, and being present and politically active in order to contribute however he can to the causes of the oppressed and marginalized for a better world, has always been more important to Jeremy than protecting himself or living a comfortable life.

One of my fondest memories with Jeremy is watching the movie *V for Vendetta* together in theaters, in the spring of 2006, while the threat of his first federal charges still weighed over him. Going to see the movie was his idea, and I distinctly recall him carrying with him the graphic novel on which the movie is based. *V for Vendetta*'s central theme of integrity in the face of government power, at the cost of severe personal sacrifice, has long been a profound, inspiring, and deeply personal, message for Jeremy. In a public statement he made after he was held in contempt last fall, he ended with a quote from *V for Vendetta* that he holds dear to his heart: "Our integrity sells for so little, but it is all we really have. It is the very last inch of us, but within that inch, we are free." As a deeply principled person who has spent most of his adult life in prison, that "inch" of freedom is what Jeremy lives for, and if he were to lose that inch by cooperating with the government, the many years of his young life that he has sacrificed to prison walls will have lost the meaning and purpose they have managed to have.

The Jeremy I knew back in 2005, when he was 20 years old, and the Jeremy I know now, recently turned 35, and the Jeremy I have known in between, would never agree to provide testimony to a

government seeking to implicate another person—regardless of the target or subject matter of the investigation, and regardless of whether Jeremy even had any information to provide. For him, this is not about protecting any particular individual, but about the principle of refusing to be complicit with a government he finds fundamentally and irredeemably unjust. Jeremy has already served two prison sentences (the latter to near completion) in cases where his prosecution could not have happened without a key government informant, which makes his refusal to testify even more personal. To testify would amount to betraying himself and the life experiences that have scarred and shaped him deeply.

Finally, if you get to know Jeremy, you would quickly learn that he has a great sense of humor and an almost inhuman ability to be positive and see the upside to even the worst of situations. This enviable personality trait and blessing of his brain's wiring no doubt has gotten him through his many years in prison, though not without scars. It is sometimes unsettling to me how go-with-the-flow he is, how he is able to adapt well to any situation, including being uprooted and hauled from prison to prison at a moment's notice (I have visited him in three different prisons and jails in a span of three years because he has been moved around so much). I do not say this to downplay the seriousness of his incarceration and the toll it has taken on him. I say this to make clear that he is an incredibly strong person mentally and will not be broken; what is broken, and inappropriate, is the procedure of jailing him for contempt for a punitive purpose.

Respectfully, I urge you to release Jeremy from his confinement at the Alexandria Detention Center or, at the very least, to order that the running of his federal prison sentence resume for as long as he remains there.

Sincerely,



Elisa Y. Lee

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 8th, 2020

Honorable Judge Trenga,

My name is Freddy Martinez and I am an investigative journalist and government transparency expert who has written extensively on technology and policing. I was previously a Fellow at the *Freedom of the Press Foundation* where I helped to protect journalists and their sources in defense of the First Amendment. I write to you in my personal capacity. I came to meet Mr Jeremy Hammond while living in Chicago and have known him for well over a decade.

I am writing to you because in the decade I have known Jeremy, I have always known him to be a thoughtful, talented man with deeply held political beliefs. It is also known to me and his supporters that there is nothing in the world that would cause Jeremy to betray his principles and indeed he has not since his arrest in 2012. In my correspondence with Jeremy, he has always continued to ask about the issues he's passionate about.

I know that Jeremy is a deeply committed activist. Many of his supporters have known him as a passionate person who would volunteer feeding the homeless and organizing for a more equal world. He is also a passionate person who would go out of his way for his friends and it is not uncommon to continue to hear new stories about his life in Chicago. I've known his friends and supporters for close to six years and I know that they were reading plans for Jeremy to come home in December of 2019.

Unfortunately, he is incarcerated at great personal cost and can not complete his remaining federal sentence. It's my belief that Jeremy would never violate his principles, not even under threat of additional jail time. His steady dedication to his principles are too entrenched into the person that is Jeremy.

We ask that the Court release Jeremy from imprisonment. It would not serve the interests of justice to continue to hold him in contempt; any further detention would serve to only punish Jeremy but would not compel him to testify.

Respectfully,

  
Freddy Martinez

[REDACTED]

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 2, 2020

Dear Judge Trenga,

I am Nancy Norelli, the lawyer for a prison support organization called "FreeAnons." Jeremy Hammond was an integral part of FreeAnons, before his 2012 arrest. He built our first website, wrote articles on pertinent legal issues that affect activists, and most importantly, lent us a tremendous passion for justice, which has inspired me to work, since that time, as FreeAnons' pro bono lawyer. This is not a job I would have undertaken, or continued, without the driving force of Jeremy's undying spirit. I have also served as Jeremy's legal support on and off throughout the years, on prison-related issues. FreeAnons has thrived since 2011, in overwhelming part because Jeremy has been a deep, and abiding, inspiration to me. On my worst days, and there have been many over the years since his arrest, I was able to renew my commitment to this work, because of his steadfast encouragement. I count him among my closest friends.

Jeremy has been a recipient of FreeAnons' support. But any support we have given him pales in comparison to the support he has given back to others, throughout his time in prison. He is an inspiration to a worldwide community of activists, who hold him in the highest regard for his integrity and principles. He has demonstrated these principles from the day of his arrest, onward. His refusal to cooperate with the United States in his original case in SDNY, in exchange for a lighter sentence illustrates this. His advocacy for other prisoners, despite his own difficult circumstances, illustrates this. His beliefs are forged in fire, and immune to threat or coercion. I have watched him remain true to himself, and adhere to his code of honor, for years. Specifically, his beliefs will not allow him to testify before the grand jury now assembled in the EDVA, or any other grand jury, ever.

Judge Trenga, I understand the grave responsibility you are duty-bound to uphold. Your reputation for honesty and fairness precedes you. As an officer of the court, I respect your position, and the legal precedents you must uphold. My letter to you is to implore you to consider the facts underlying this particular case: Mr. Hammond will never deviate from his conscience. I believe, from the bottom of my heart, that even if he were to face another grueling 8 years in BOP custody, in order to comply with his beliefs, he would do so. His commitment to his conscience is, without exaggeration, legendary. I have seen proof of this, time and time, again, in my work with FreeAnons. I speak with activists, worldwide. Almost without exception, every consultation I have with these activists, whether from the United States, the E.U., the Middle East – quite literally – from across the globe, includes an expression of their admiration for Jeremy's unwavering commitment to his conscience. I've been privy to these conversations for years.

Judge Trenga, I implore you to take this information to heart, just as Jeremy has touched the hearts of so many. I ask you, for a moment, to please consider the kind of person who would inspire a lawyer to give up all income from a legal practice, and sacrifice time with family and friends, for 8 years. The answer is that only an extraordinary person like Jeremy inspires a



life-change as profound as mine. Please release him. His continued imprisonment serves no purpose, except punishment. It does not serve the court's interest. It does not serve society's interest. It will not convince him to testify, ever, due to his deeply-held political beliefs. Jeremy's commitment to those beliefs changed my life for years. I ask you, respectfully, to see his commitment, and allow it to change your mind about his continued confinement. I ask you to let this moment in time be the impetus for change – not for years – but for just enough time to reach a decision to release him. It is the right thing to do, ethically, legally, and morally. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N. Norelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nancy Norelli  
Attorney-at-Law



Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
 401 Courthouse Square  
 Courtroom 701  
 Alexandria, VA 22314

March 7, 2020

Dear Hon. Judge Trenga:

My name is Gerald Koch. I was incarcerated from May 21, 2013 to January 28, 2014 after being held in civil contempt, just as Jeremy Hammond is now.<sup>1</sup> I am writing you to provide some context for why activists such as Jeremy and myself firmly believe in never cooperating with grand juries on principle, and why I know that Jeremy will never cooperate with this grand jury.

It is my hope that this letter will be of use to you in understanding Jeremy's continued refusal to cooperate. Having been held in civil contempt and subject to harsh conditions in the William G. Truesdale - Alexandria Adult Detention Center for six months, I believe it is clear that no amount of further coercive detention will ever compel Jeremy to cooperate with this grand jury, as to him this is a matter of principle. And please believe me when I say I have met few people as intensely principled and uniquely stubborn as Jeremy Hammond.

I first met Jeremy Hammond in late 2013 in New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC). I had refused to cooperate with a grand jury subpoena that I believed was being used as a cover for an overbroad investigation into social justice activists in New York earlier that year and was held in civil contempt not long after. I already knew who Jeremy was before I met him—his hacktivism and commitment to social justice have always received strong support within the broader activist community—but what first struck me when we finally met inside MCC was just how unwaveringly committed he was to the decisions that had brought him there. Never once did he succumb to the self-doubt and fear that runs rampant in pre-trial detention. He was—and continues to be—a man of principle and unwavering confidence in the moral soundness of his decisions. When the option of cooperating against others was floated in his case, he turned it down without batting an eye, and never looked back. During some of my own darkest times, Jeremy was there for me, and the strength of his convictions always bolstered not only my own, but so many of the men he came in contact with.

I remember the day he was sentenced by Hon. Judge Preska to 10 years. I remember worrying about how Jeremy would handle it, if that was the straw that would finally break him. But what I remember most about that day was Jeremy's face when he finally got back to our unit. He was smiling. Smiling!

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<sup>1</sup> Should you like more information on my own case, and why Judge Keenan of the Southern District of New York ultimately ordered my release after concluding I would never cooperate, see *In re Grand Jury Proceedings*, 994 F. Supp. 2d 510 (S.D.N.Y. 2014).

That smile wasn't a show, it wasn't an illusion, or a mask. That was the smile of a man so committed to his principles that he was willing to endure any pain in order to preserve his morals. It didn't mean he wasn't in pain, or that he was somehow pleased to have been sentenced to a decade in federal prison. No, what I believe that smile meant is that Jeremy was resolute in his commitment to social justice, and if he had to suffer for it, then that was a price he paid gladly. Such is the strength of Jeremy's belief.

Grand jury resistance has a long history in social justice movements, and Jeremy joined a long line of political contemnors when he refused to cooperate with this subpoena. Each of us have our own particular beliefs of course, but what we share is a refusal to bend our principles. You may disagree with his decision, but if you look back at the long lineage of politically motivated grand jury resisters, you will see that Jeremy is far from alone in his refusal to cooperate.

In short, I firmly believe that no amount of detention will coerce Jeremy into compromising his principles and cooperating with a legal mechanism to which he is morally opposed. Jeremy simply would not be Jeremy if he did anything else. I sincerely hope that you can see this, and that this letter has been of assistance.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'GK' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Gerald Koch

J.D. Candidate, 2020  
City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law  
2 Court Square West  
Long Island City, NY  
11101

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 9, 2020

Honorable Judge Trenga,

I have been a friend of Mr. Jeremy Hammond for the last 15 years. In that time I have come to admire his commitment to the causes he believes in and his stubborn refusal to ever compromise his beliefs in the face of repression.

I met Jeremy initially through writing and publishing activist literature and we formed a deep friendship based on our shared love of technology and our shared commitment to making a better world. During that time Jeremy and I would speak daily, and I grew to know him as a man who is extremely consistent with and committed to his beliefs. I now work at the legal non-profit organization, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, defending civil liberties as they intersect with technology. In my line of work I help defend people against digital threats from nation-state backed hackers attacking civil society. I have helped expose companies that sell "stalkerware" that allows people to spy on a spouse or significant other. I have investigated and brought to light surveillance by the governments of Lebanon and Kazakhstan on their citizens. I have researched "phishing" campaigns against US civil society organizations. My work has been featured on the *NBC Today Show*, *Reuters*, and the *New York Times*.

Jeremy and I may have gone down different life paths but to this day he remains one of the most committed and courageous people that I have ever met. I would not be where I am today had it not been for the formative years I spent with Jeremy talking about our deep interest in technology and sharing a deep commitment to ethics and human rights.

I am writing to you today to implore you to release Jeremy from imprisonment. It is my belief that his commitment to his ideals are so strong that he will never testify in a closed court or before a grand jury. We have talked in the past at some length about the principals of grand jury resistance and I know that he is a firm believer in these principals. Jeremy has already demonstrated that he is willing to go to prison for his beliefs. For Jeremy prison does not serve as a deterrent and will not serve the courts' interests in any way. Continuing to hold Jeremy in contempt only prevents him from rejoining the community, his family, and his friends where he can be a benefit to society.

Sincere thanks,  
Cooper Quintin





Brad Thomson  
People's Law Office  
1180 N. Milwaukee Ave. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60642

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 10, 2020

Dear Honorable Judge Trenga,

I respectfully request that you consider this letter in regard to Jeremy Hammond, who I have known personally for nearly fifteen years.

As an attorney licensed in the state of Illinois and part of my practice involves criminal defense in U.S. District Courts. As such, I recognize the procedural posture that Jeremy is in and I understand the factors that the Court must consider.

I met Jeremy prior to becoming a lawyer, when I was active in a number of social justice organizations in Chicago. Prior to meeting in person, I was familiar with his work on a broad number of community projects for a number of years before we met in person. Jeremy, along with his brother Jason, were fixtures in the movements fighting for progressive causes in Chicago. Prior to Jeremy's incarceration, I knew him to be active in opposing racism and sexism, advocating for environmental justice, supporting immigrant rights and LGBTQ rights, fighting against hunger and homelessness, and opposing governmental infringement on individual liberties.

I have always found Jeremy to be compassionate, generous, and deeply committed to the projects he has been involved in. He is principled, passionate, and unwavering in his commitment to the causes he supports. He was well known in the community as being uncompromising in his positions, particularly in regard to engaging with the police.

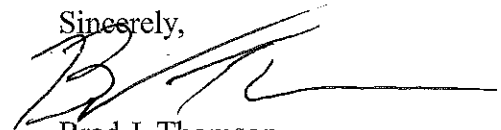
It would be common for many organizations to obtain permits for rallies and marches and coordinate with police in order to avoid the risk of arrest. Jeremy always took an unwavering position that such coordination was unacceptable and he would refuse to engage in it, even if it increased his personal risk of arrest.

Jeremy was, in fact, arrested on a number of occasions. I was aware of a number of these incidents at the time and in those instances, he was one of several people arrested and criminally charged. In those cases, he refused to engage in any cooperating plea offer that would have required to testify against any co-defendants, regardless of how it negatively impacted his sentence.

Based on my personal interactions with Jeremy, I am confident that he will refuse to compromise on his convictions, regardless of what negative impacts it may have on him personally. Additionally, I am intimately familiar with Jeremy's standing and reputation within the Chicago activist community and I can attest to the fact that he is well respected, in part, because he has refused to compromise his beliefs.

As someone who knows Jeremy personally, it is unfathomable to me that he would ever testify before a grand jury, particularly one that is investigating any political cause he is invested in. I firmly believe that civil contempt will not coerce Jeremy to testify, but will simply further incarcerate him for a decision he is extremely unlikely to reconsider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad J. Thomson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brad J. Thomson  
Attorney at Law



Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314

March 9th, 2020

Dear Judge Trenga:

I have known Jeremy since 2005, and lived with him in Chicago in multiple different settings. As his record shows, he is a very passionate and principled activist and anarchist. In every different setting that I have witnessed, he has been thoughtful and intentional with his decisions and actions, always maximizing his integrity to his principles.

I know that he has read accounts from other activists who faced a grand jury, and that refusing to testify to a grand jury is a very basic principle of his. He has shown multiple times that prison is not a deterrent that would cause him to violate his principles. Threatening him with more jail time to persuade him to testify would be like trying to convince a river to stop flowing just by talking to it. This clearly will not work.

If the reason for this imprisonment is to compel him to testify, then there is no basis for this imprisonment. Jeremy values his integrity more than his freedom.

Thank you for your consideration,



Rose Howell

Honorable Anthony J. Trenga  
401 Courthouse Square  
Courtroom 701  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

Jeremy Hammond and I met at Glenbard East High School in 2002 as students. He was publishing an “underground” newspaper at that time, and I offered to help. For those of you who do not remember the Fall of 2002, the administration of George W. Bush was engaged in a campaign of mass-disinformation and lies to justify an illegal, unethical, and immoral imperialist war. I joined Jeremy and our fellow students in publishing tens of thousands of pamphlets, newsletters, and flyers educating our generation and the public about the lies, criminal intentions, profit motives, and genocidal aspirations of the United States Government. I was inspired by the way Jeremy was able to change the minds of my peers - I saw how our meetings and rallies would exponentially increase in size every time a new tract came off the press. Our peace rallies started with 3 of us, and grew to 300 in a matter of weeks.

The invasion of Iraq, the slaughter of innocent women and children, and the U.S.-sponsored rise of global terrorism completely changed our generation’s understanding of politics - and it forever changed Jeremy Hammond. It became apparent that telling the truth, publishing, educating, and peacefully protesting did not change what was - and is - a fascist empire hell-bent on maintaining global capitalist hegemony.

Understanding the bloodlust of the U.S. Government, Jeremy quickly shifted gears from a person of words to a person of deeds. He landed multiple stints in prison for his actions, both in the physical and in the digital realm. Every time the judges and prosecutors would sentence him, he was unrepentant. In conversations, he acknowledged the legal consequences of his deeds. Jeremy has made it very clear - with his deeds, his pronouncements, and his refusal to participate in the grand jury - he is an anarchist and does not consider the state or the capitalists whom control the state legitimate rulers.

It should be noted that Jeremy's current imprisonment involved an extensive FBI surveillance operation with full records of his comments and activities. Any information necessary for the prosecution of their case is a forgone conclusion. The only logical intention of convening a Grand Jury would be entrapment of Jeremy Hammond into an extensive prison sentence for his refusal to cooperate on his personal convictions, well established in the public sphere, as an anarchist who does not recognize the legitimacy of Grand Juries or the state. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, in a letter from Birmingham Jail, shares with us the insight "One who breaks an unjust law must do so openly, lovingly, and with a willingness to accept the penalty. I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law. Of course, there is nothing new about this kind of civil disobedience. It was evidenced sublimely in the refusal of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to obey the laws of Nebuchadnezzar, on the ground that a higher moral law was at stake. It was practiced superbly by the early Christians, who were willing to face hungry lions and the excruciating pain of chopping blocks rather than to submit to certain unjust laws of the Roman Empire."

Jeremy, while in philosophical disagreement with Dr. King over the definition of the term anarchy and the expression of disobedience as respect for the law, follows in the same path laid by not only Dr. King, but also Fellow Worker Jesus Christ. Jeremy, in his quest to seek justice, is willing to face the whips and abuses of our modern day Roman Empire. Jeremy will continue to carry the cross that will be used to publicly display his execution, and will remain silent. Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth".



Matthew Zito

Editor, Industrial Worker Magazine